

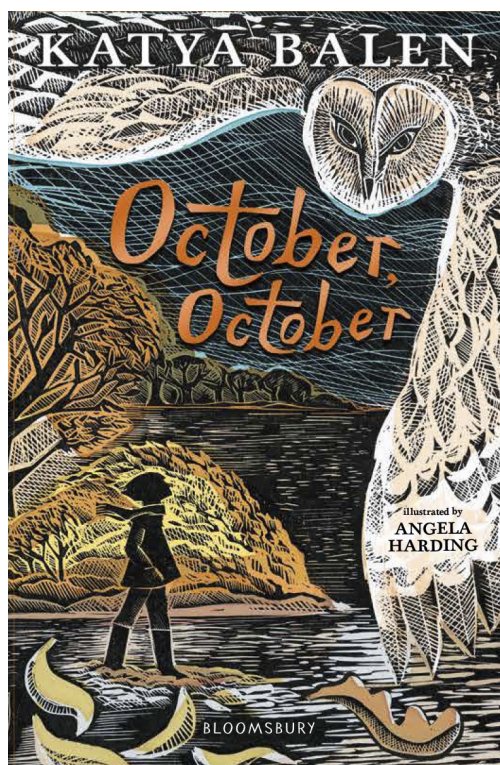


Newlands Girls' School Library Newsletter ISSUE 2

2022 CARNEGIE AWARD WINNER GETS OUR VOTE!

BOOK REVIEW ISSUE

See inside for some great
summer reading ideas!



The Yoto Carnegie Medal has been awarded to Katya Balen for her novel *October, October*.

The judges described it as a “beautiful” and “captivating” story of a girl, October, who must learn to spread her wings after a childhood spent living wild in the woods changes dramatically the year she turns 11. The story was inspired by Balen’s father-in-law who lives off-grid, and her own love of mudlarking and the outdoors.

October, October was also voted as the favourite title by Sarina, Maya, Zayana and Meggy of the **Newlands Carnegie Shadowing Club**.

“I would rate this: 100/10! It was impossible to stop reading!” Meggy, Yr 7.

See inside for reviews of *October, October* and the other shortlisted titles.

Our Carnegie Shadow Judges:

Year 7: Sarina, Meggy, Maya, Scarlett and Laila.

Year 8: Huda, Fatima, Nadine, Zayana, Katie, Kit, Maisie and Melissa.

I really found 'October, October' inspiring, as it was an amazing, touching story about a young girl, different to others, but amazing in her own way. I loved the theme of nature, and the connection to it and then also the difficult transition to London that October had to face, but then she realised she could be herself anywhere and learn to settle in. It had a great moral. My favourite character must be Stig, the adorable, baby owl, who you just want to squeeze and hug at first read! Stig is also a character that I will always remember, as she just lightens up October's life and adds that little sparkle in the story. Overall, I definitely recommend this book by Katya Balen; I would totally explore more of her books! I would rate this: 100/10! It was impossible to stop reading!
Meggy.

Yoto Carnegie Medal winner, Katya Balen commented:

"I am so thrilled to have won the Yoto Carnegie Medal, not only because it's the award every children's writer dreams about, but because it is so committed to promoting reading and sharing stories. Sharing stories is something I believe to be one of the most important parts of our lives, simply because stories are our lives. They are threads that connect us all. They make us understand, they give us a shared experience, and they give us something special and private too. They give us wild freedom and they give us safety and comfort."

ALSO RECOMMENDED BY OUR CARNEGIE SHADOWERS:

When the Sky Falls—Phil Earle

When the Sky Falls displays itself to me as emotional and an unusual story during World War II. While most people are being evacuated FROM LONDON Joseph is going TO LONDON. He feels lost and angry and hates everyone around him. He has been sent to live with Mrs F who seems like an unconcerned, stiff character. However, near the end of the book she reveals similar hardships to Joseph's. Joseph also meets Sydney, a character who lives with her aunt. She also helps Joseph. Approaching the end, Adonis gives a heart-warming effect to the story as Mrs F, Sydney and Joseph try to save the gorilla. The ending was abrupt and sad but I enjoyed this story.

Huda

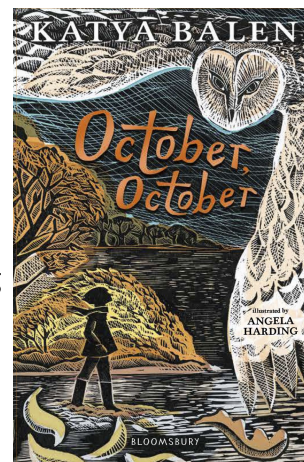
Punching the Air—Yusef Salaam

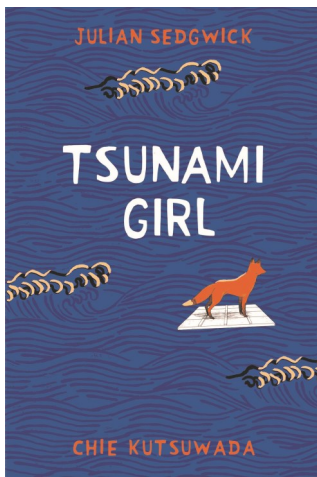
Punching the Air was a thoroughly enjoyable book it had a very effective use of poetry throughout the book. Some parts were a bit tricky to understand. The ending leaves you wondering if Amal eventually left prison. Overall, I would rate it 50%. Huda



yoto
CARNEGIE
GREENAWAY
AWARDS

"We live in the woods and we are wild." *October, October* is a story which tells many other stories that October creates. October goes from living in the wild woods with her dad to the crowded, noisy city of London with her mother, which she doesn't know very well. During the story, October develops in London, with her Mother whom she doesn't want to live like. Everything in the city mismatches her, however she finds her own passion and friends there much like the woods. October, October is quite an easy read although the descriptive language about October's feeling with nature in the book intrigues me. Overall, I would rate it 8/10. Huda





MS BAKER'S FAVOURITE:

Tsunami Girl—Julian Sedgewick and Chie Kutsuwada

“Fifteen-year-old Yuki goes to Japan to stay with her beloved grandfather, a well-known manga artist. But during her visit, a Tsunami occurs – and her beloved Grandpa is lost. Yuki, and her friend Taka, must make sense of the terrible situation and come to terms with immense loss – and see that through renewal and with resilience, they can emerge from this tragedy with optimism for the future.”

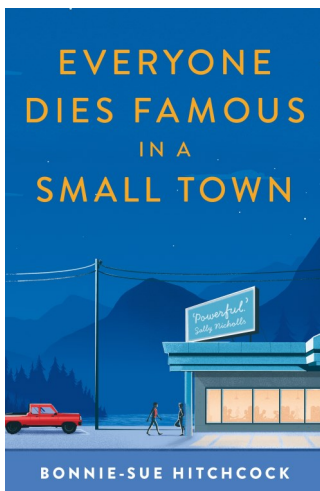
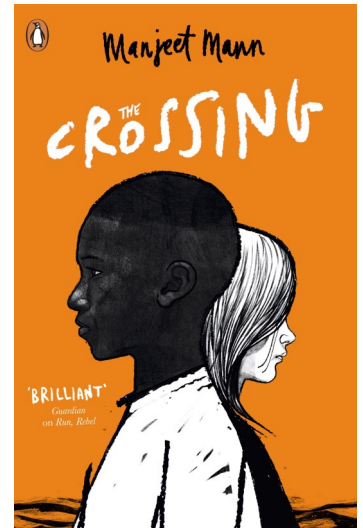
I loved this book; the story is really engaging and the manga style illustrations really make it special.

KIT AND ZAYANA'S FAVOURITE!

Crossing

“Natalie’s world is falling apart. She’s just lost her mum and her brother marches the streets of Dover full of hate and anger. Swimming is her only refuge. Sammy has fled his home and family in Eritrea for the chance of a new life in Europe. Every step he takes on his journey is a step into an unknown and unwelcoming future. A twist of fate brings them together and gives them both hope. But is hope enough to mend a broken world?”

“I couldn’t put this down. The whole book is like a poem and I liked the way it kept switching perspectives.”



MAISIE AND MELISSA'S FAVOURITES:

Everybody Dies Famous in a Small Town—Bonnie-Sue Hitchcock

A captivating and lyrical journey told through intertwined short stories that relay the stories of young people in rural America who share the experience of being in the hinterland before adulthood. Each story promotes empathy and understanding and minutely observes the details of individual lives yet whilst combined, paints a broader story of culture and community with impressive brush strokes.

Lots of plot twists and quirky characters, we loved it.

Guard your Heart—Sue Divin

Derry, 2016. Catholic Aidan and Protestant Iona, now eighteen, were both born on the day of the Northern Ireland peace deal. At a post-exam party, Aidan wanders alone across the Peace Bridge and becomes the victim of a brutal sectarian attack, witnessed by Iona. When the two meet, the differences between them seem insurmountable, but despite their differences their friendship grows. But it seems like everything is keeping them apart, when all they want is to be together.

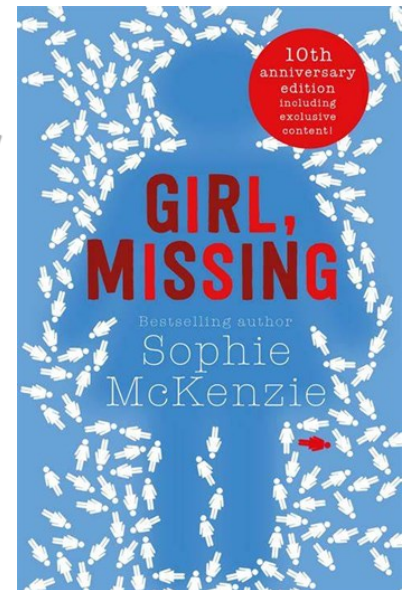
This book is like a modern day 'Romeo and Juliet'. We loved the tension between the characters.



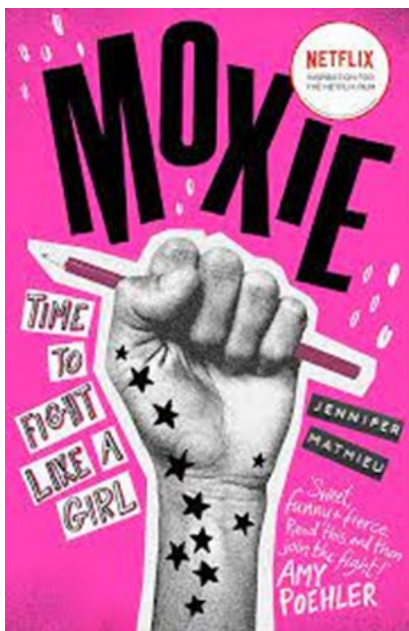
RECOMMENDED SUMMER READING

Girl Missing—Sophie McKenzie

This book is the ultimate page turner and leaves you on a cliff hanger after every chapter. *Girl Missing* is the first book of an awesome series by Sophie McKenzie. Lauren, a young teen is determined to find her real parents. She constantly listens to her parents bickering about the box in the loft- when are they going to share the contents of it? The young girl becomes more curious and wants to discover what's inside. With the help of her best friend they discover the inside and the two go on an adventure. The children are lost and wished they never went on this awful journey. They meet a 'Police Officer' who helps them along the way. Terror clouds over them- will they escape the thunder that follows them? This page turner is awesome and I would highly recommend it because it leaves you tense, on edge and trembling once you close the cover.



I would give this book 4 stars as even though the story plot is awesome, the characters aren't as unique as other books and don't have special qualities like other book characters. *SOPHIE D*



Moxie—Jennifer Mathieu

Girls Fight Back!

This book is about a girl called Vivian Carver. She is fed up with the way the boys at her school treat the girls. To blow off some anger, she makes a 'zine saying "Moxie Girls Fight Back!", but girls at her school seem to take this seriously and before Vivian knows, she's started a revolution.

This book makes me feel all sorts of emotions – I feel mad but in a good way! The actress Amy Poehler said: "It's sweet, funny and fierce. Read this and then join in the fight!"

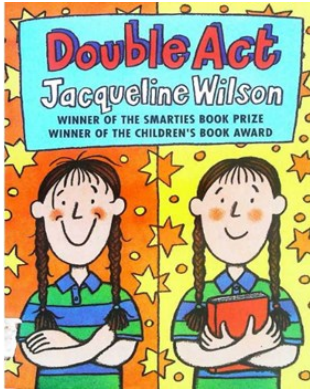
I agree with her statement. This book really brings my emotions out. I remember, I went to bed full of rage for reading how the boys treated the girls and how the girls react. It really makes me feel that

I could start a revolution!

I interviewed my English teacher Ms Baker to find her opinions on the book: "It made me very aware about the power of women and how we should stand up for ourselves."

I can definitely say that I agree with Ms Baker's answer! I hope you enjoy reading my review and I hope you take an interest in reading this book.

Anna B



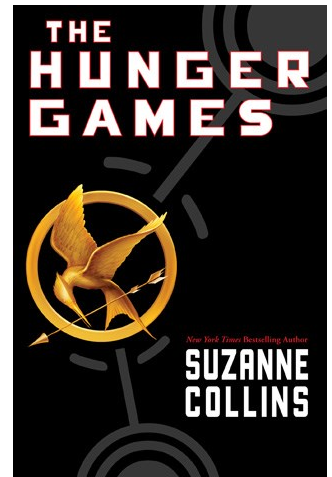
Double Act - Jacqueline Wilson

I enjoyed this book because it was full of fun and character. It is about twins who always helped each other and one day they get into a long argument and then they realise that they always have to stick together even though they have completely opposite personalities. I would recommend this book to people who like interesting stories and who like plot twists.

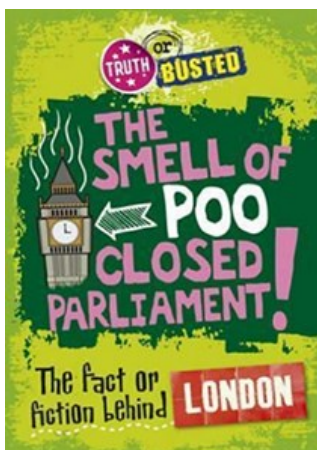
IDA

The Hunger Games—Suzanne Collins

You have probably already read The Hunger Games as it is a popular franchise of which they have made four movies. However, I have heard no one talk about the romance aspect of the novels, the deep meaningful relationship between the two main characters Peeta and Katniss. The books are mainly centered around the dystopian future of the USA where every year they hold an annual hunger games where 12 contestants fight to death. However, as the books go on, you see the love story of Peeta and Katniss unravel before your eyes. At the start of the book, I wasn't convinced that they would make a good match. However, time after time they continue to share adorable moments that still make me cry. Even though I've read the book about 150 times, Peeta and Katniss will never fail to make me feel happy even when I'm having a bad day. So, if you haven't already, please pick this book off your bookshelf and read it. Or, if you have already read it, re-read it again and re-live the amazing moments. I thoroughly recommend this book.



Morgan C



Truth or Busted: The Facts or Fiction Behind London

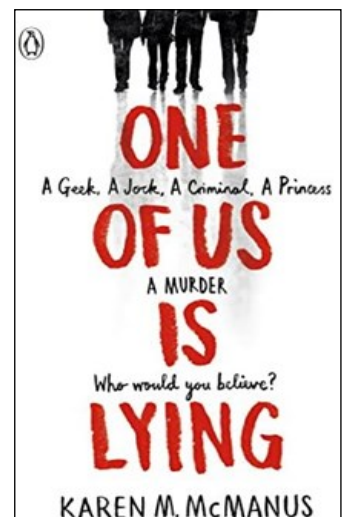
I rated this book a 5/5 because it has loads of intriguing facts about London, explaining if theories are true or false about London. For example: people think that the children's rhyme 'A ring, a ring o' roses' is about the Black Death but this is false for several reasons. For example, it has the quote 'they all fall down' in which most people think that people died from the Plague but most commonly back then it was referred to curtsying/bowing.

Sofia L.

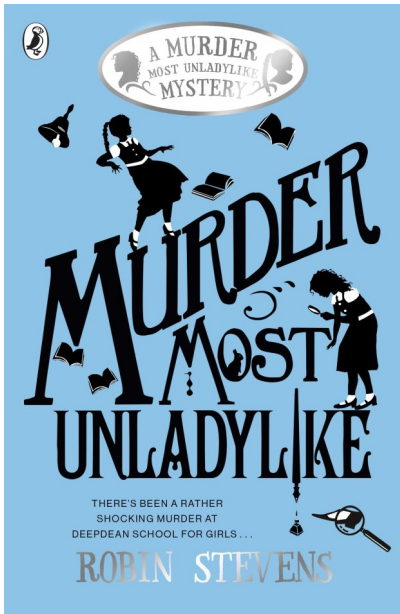
One of Us is Lying - Karen M. McManus

I would recommend the book *One of us is Lying* to ages 12+ and to people who enjoy the murder mystery genre. This book is about 4 people: a geek, a jock, a criminal and a princess who have been framed for the murder of one of their classmates: Simon Kellehers. In summary, this book has so many twists and turns throughout and you will find it extremely hard to put down.

Adrianna



RECOMMENDED SUMMER READING



A Murder Most Unladylike—Robin Stevens

I enjoyed this book because of the suspense and how the book kept on making me think that something very bad was going to happen, but then it doesn't actually turn out as bad as I thought.

I love the series of these books so much and I definitely recommend them. These books are the reason that I became interested in reading.

This book is about [without spoilers] Daisy and Hazel's detective society and how they secretly solve murders that happen. How did it happen...? Who died...? Why did the murder do it...? How did they do it...? Who are the suspects...? But most of all, why did they do it to those specific people, did the murderer hate them or was it an accident...?

Arianna

This book is about a young girl, Hazel, who had come to an English girls' boarding school Deepdean School for Girls, from China, Hong Kong. There she meets her new-found best friend, Daisy Wells, a rich girl from the English countryside. In this book, they work together to solve the murder mystery of their science teacher, Miss Bell, as mere amateurs. Guess what ***** killed Miss Bell! Yep you've got to read the book to find out just one thing, there is a huge PLOT TWIST!

Hazel – shy, doesn't fit in, smart

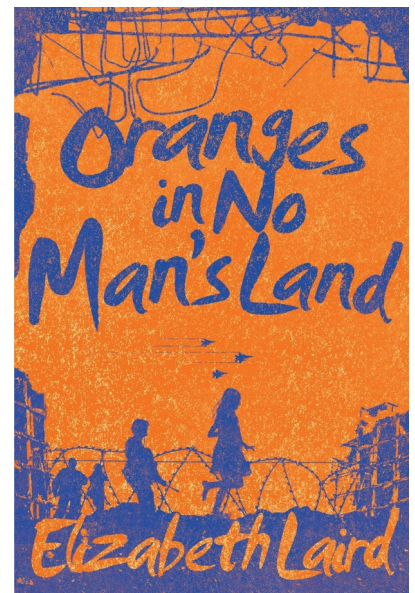
Daisy – leader, rich, glamorous, popular

Sarina and Meggy

Oranges in No Man's Land - Elizabeth Laird

A little girl in a war-torn country becomes a hero in her own way. When she flees her country and starts a new life. This is a really good book because it shows how a little girl can make a difference even in a war that wasn't her fault.

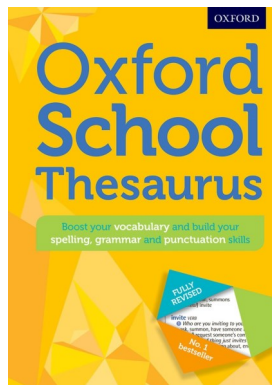
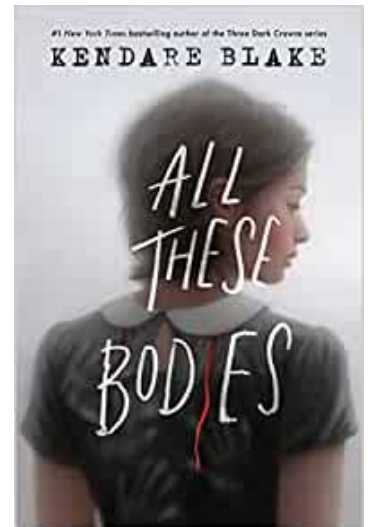
ZAARA



All These Bodies by Kendare Blake

The book that I'm going to tell you about is called 'All these Bodies'. It is by an author called Kendare Blake who is known for writing horror and thrillers. This book is about a killing spree, sixteen bodies found, all drained of blood. The only possible suspect is 15-year-old Catherine Hale.

I am really enjoying this book, as it is filled with suspense and horror. Because its set in 1960, it's quite sexist. Most of the characters are declining the fact that a teenage girl could have killed those people. Other than a few judgemental people in the book, it's a really good read.



The Thesaurus

I like this book because it can greatly improve your writing and you can substitute your common overused adjectives. A thesaurus can improve your writing to a great standard and you can get them in all shapes and sizes (and online). They are a piece of kit every writer needs, they are in almost every English classroom and in the library.

Layla

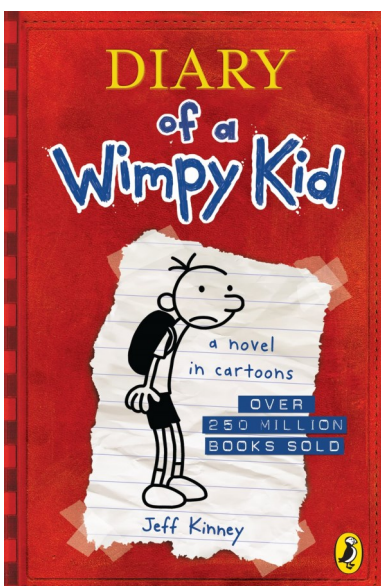
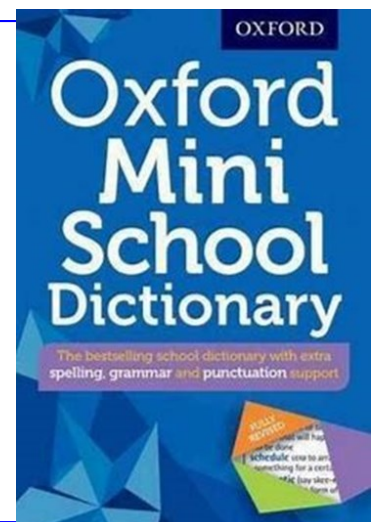
The Dictionary

At first, I was sceptical because how could a dictionary be fun to read? But after I read it, I became highly intelligent.

"I never knew a dictionary could help my spelling so much," exclaimed Sophie.

It will help you put together stories, let alone help you get the best score on any spelling test. So, I highly recommend the Oxford Mini School Dictionary for *everyone* because there is no limit to who can read it: if you can read, you can read it..

Alice C



Diary of a Wimpy Kid—Jeff Kinney

Diary of a Wimpy Kid is a very good book series because it is funny and I really enjoy reading it, it makes me feel happy when I read it.

The layout is in diary form which I find great because it is nice to read. They are all quite quick reads and have funny illustrations, I am currently reading Double Down which is so far good. They are revolved around Greg Hefley and his funny life, they are written by Jeff Kinney.

Olivia Y7

I would give this series 5 stars and highly recommend.

OLIVIA

Red Queen—Victoria Aveyard (YA fantasy)

Red Queen was the most interesting read I have read so far. Unlike other books I read over the past few months, that often make the whole story more complicated than it really should be, Red Queen surprised me by making the story a thrilling page-turner.

Mare, a pickpocket who lives in the murky town called 'The Stilts', ends up in the home to the wretched Silvers as a servant in disguise. Her fate changes as she realizes she is more than just an ordinary Red. To avoid being interrogated by the public, the Silver Queen hides her in plain sight by spinning up a treacherous lie to her own people.

Now, she is stuck in a world imprisoned in glass where anyone could betray her. One wrong move, and she is dead.

The Red Queen is an amazing thriller book to read, and I recommend it to anyone who likes reading fantasy fiction as well since it includes fictional elements.

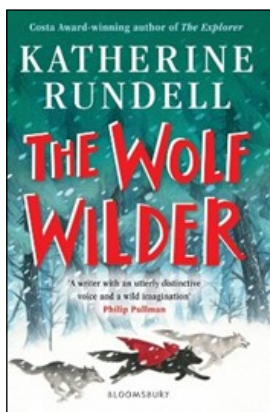
Of course, there can be reasons why I dislike this book, and even though there aren't many, I can pick out the one that is worth jotting down here. This book's context might be hard to understand in other words, it's quite vague in some moments what's really going on. Apart from that, it deserves a solid 9/10 rating.

Maheen Year 7

The Knife of Never Letting Go—Patrick Ness

A town where there isn't any privacy, everyone can hear each other's thoughts and deep dark secrets but that is until Todd appears to be stuck in complete silence. He realizes he needs to get out of Prentisstown... This is really interesting because it creates suspense and tension towards Todd's next move to get out of the town that lied to him.....

Zaara

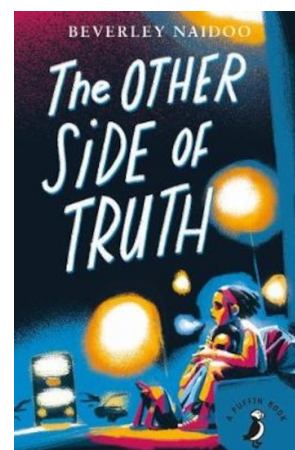
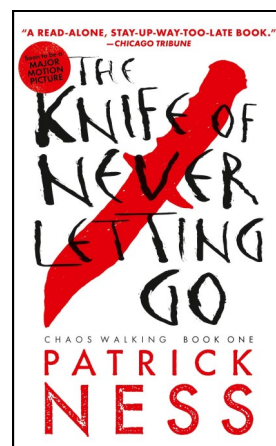
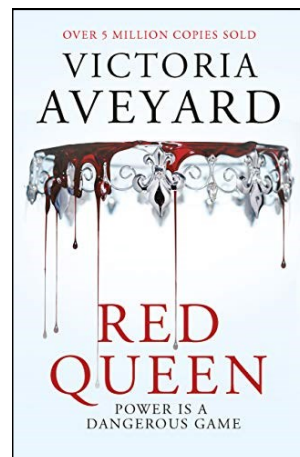


The Wolf Wilder— Katherine Rundell

The Wolf Wilder is such a fantastic read, it dances in its own spotlight. Full of thrills and chills, this book has more twists than the intergalactic galaxy! This book is a definite read for all thrill seekers and adrenalin junkies; this book is for you!

The Other Side of Truth Beverley Naidoo

The Other Side of Truth is a great book. We read it as a class and even though we didn't get to finish it, I still thought that what we read was intriguing and it was a shame we couldn't finish it. The Other Side of Truth is about a girl called Sade. Her Dad wrote an article that some men did not like and they shot Sade's mother! This start bit was very sad but the book gets much better as you discover what Sade and her family have to do to protect themselves. I will not share what they have to do- but I can tell you that Sade and her brother must be separated from their father to move to the UK - with **secret identities!** This is when the book gets good and I suggest you read the rest to discover what happens!



YEAR 7 BOOK CLUB



How the book club came to be:

Founders: Sophie W and Isla W

Co founder: Ella W

Members: Macy H

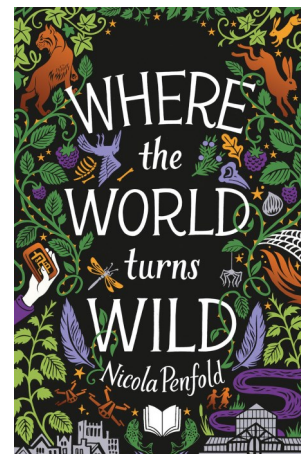
“It all started when Sophie and Isla took two matching books of the shelf which gave them the idea to make a book club. At first, Ella was sceptical but she realised the book club was great and she was wrong to judge it so quickly. Then after that, we all go to the library and pick up matching books which we all read at the same time and every chapter we speak to each other stating what we think on what has happened so far and what we think about the book. Later Macy joined and we have been running the book club since! **We are open for new recruits** (the club is year 7 only—next year Year 8!).”

WHERE THE WORLD TURNS WILD

Our review:

This book is about two children who are different to their city. The city is closed in to stop a disease. One thing happens which makes them flee to the wild. They are faced with many challenges but they are happy to be home. Back into the wild!

At the end we really enjoyed this book.



Truth or Dare

by Sarina J

At only the age of nine the young girl, Sage finds out the painful truth. how could life be just a game? It's worth so much more, but now they're all forced to gamble their lives away.



I ran faster than ever before, almost tripping on my own feet. My heart hammering in my chest, the taunting fear of being eliminated had never been so real. Now, you might be wondering what is happening; it's best we start for the very beginning. I was only nine when my life changed forever, I lost the person that meant the most to me and I had realized that it was not long before I would face the same fate.

"Breakfast is ready!" Mother called out. I walked down the wooden staircase, the smell of warm porridge filled the air making my stomach rumble. My mother poured the rich oatmeal into a bowl and topped it with honey, strawberries and bananas. My mouth started to water and as soon I was given a spoon, I devoured it like a wild hungry animal. Mother would usually tell me to sit straight and eat like a lady but today she sat staring into the distance with a frown on her tired face. I could feel like something was wrong, there was a bad energy in the room and the awkward silence made my head ache. Suddenly there was a knock at the door making mother jump out of her thoughts; she gave a deep sigh and muttered something under her breath.

She walked slowly to the door and opened it slightly. A hand peeped through the crack, handing her a fire red envelope. Mother took it and she quite rudely slammed the door in the man's face. She rushed up the stairs and into her room with an annoyed and worried expression. I gently tiptoed upstairs and placed my head against the cold door, trying to hear the conversation she and father were having.

"It's that time in the month when they deliver the tasks. I'm worried Joseph, what if it is what I've been expecting?"

Mother spoke with her voice shaking with fear. I peered through the little key hole and watched her as she opened her envelope, passing father his. She slipped the piece of paper out and gasped, a tear trickling down her cheek. She went pale, as if all the life in her had been sucked by a vacuum.

"It's going to be ok," Father reassured her.

I barged into the room. "What's wrong, why are you crying mama?" I questioned.

That's when I found out; Father explained everything.

"Sweetheart, we have been meaning to tell you this for a while, but there is something you must know: once a person becomes 10, they are given their first truth or dare. On the first day of every month you must complete the task in a matter of 24 hours. If the task is not completed you will be eliminated. No one knows what happens to you after you disappear; people say it's worse than death. It's just a bit weird but I never need to do my tasks, nothing happens to me. It's probably a bug in the system but other than me every must do their tasks," Father explained as he threw his letter in the bin.

I was lost for words. This had to be a huge joke but the look on mother's face told me that this was as real as I was. I looked down at the envelope and snatched it out of mother's hand. As my eyes rolled across the words my heart skipped a beat. There was a huge lump in my throat and my voice trembled as I read the letter aloud.

To: Sarah Jabot

Dare

Kill the love of your life (your daughter)

My hands covered my mouth as I dropped the letter. I wanted to scream and cry but all I did was stand there in shock and disbelief. Mother picked up the letter with her trembling hands.

"I can't do this to you," she stuttered. The only words that managed to come out of my mouth were "NO". I'd rather die than have to live a life without her. Father wrapped his arm around her and held her tight, but I just stood in that very spot and gazed into her deep brown eyes. I wanted the world to swallow me up, but I also wanted to grab mother hold her tight and never let go. I could not let her give herself up for me, I was not worth it.

Mother stood up and hugged me she stroked my hair and whispered in my ear, "It's going to be okay Sage. everything is going to be okay I promise."

And that was the very first time she broke her promise. Hours later I lay in bed and stared at the ceiling. It was midnight when I heard an ear-piercing scream that echoed across the house. I ran to mothers' room where I watched her evaporate into nothing. She had gone, just disappeared. I burst into tears as my heart throbbed. Mother had been eliminated and there was no one to blame but me. Father huddled me up in his arms as we both sobbed through the night. Now it was my turn to make a promise, I would never forgive myself for what I had done.

Six years later

I walked to school with my head down. Anna looked at me. "What's going on?" she asked.

"Nothing, just that tomorrow is the 1st of November and I'm worrying already," I replied.

"Oh, you are worrying for nothing. You know we are never given anything horrible. The worst task you were ever given was having to do a chicken dance in front of the whole year, it was hilarious!"

This made me feel a bit better but I kept my head down as there was still a slight fear roaring inside me and I was getting flashbacks to what had happened to mother. The guilt still tore me apart and the scars from the loss still hurt but slowly I started to forget. I reminded myself every day to make sure I that the guilt would never stop. I didn't deserve to be here but yet I was, so I would make life as painful as possible for myself. I deserved it.

To be continued...



MOST POPULAR LIBRARY BOOKS

WHICH ONES HAVE YOU READ?

Top 5 Most Borrowed (Individual Titles)	
Murder Most Unladylike	Robin Stevens
Ouran High School Host	Bisco Hatori
The House with Chicken Legs	Sophie Anderson
Pride & Prejudice	Jane Austen
Harry Potter & the Philosophers Stone	J.K. Rowling

Top 5 Most Borrowed (Series)	
Diary of a Wimpy Kid	Jeff Kinney
Dork Diaries	Rachel Renee Russell
Maze Runner	James Dashner
Twilight Saga	Stephenie Meyer
Heartstopper	Alice Oseman



Make sure to join the NGS Summer Reading Challenge!

Summer holidays are a great opportunity to read and try some new authors (You could try the ones reviewed here)

The Form who reads the most over the summer will win their very own non-uniform day!

Check your emails for your unique code to log in and start recording your reading.

This issue of ***Beyond the Books*** was brought to you by **The Creative Writing and Journalism Club**. **Special thanks to: 7Y2, 9Y4 and the Carnegie Shadowing Club.**



Extra special thanks to Mrs Flood, School Librarian!