

THE READING CORNER

The Blowers Green Reading Newsletter

BLOWERS GREEN
PRIMARY
Dudley

March / April 2024

The Book Quiz



In the thrilling Dudley Libraries Reading Miles Book Quiz of 2024, our team of Year 3 and 4 learners emerged as victorious champions!

With dedication and excitement, they immersed themselves in the magical worlds of five fantastic books, showcasing their love for reading and knowledge. The experience was so inspiring that these young bookworms could not wait to explore even more stories by the same authors. The joy of winning the quiz sparked a thirst for more stories, turning the children into true library explorers on a quest for the next great read!

Well done – a truly dedicated team and a fantastic achievement.



Author Interaction

Our victorious book quiz team recently contacted author Damien Harvey and were delighted to receive a reply through email that answered some of their excellent questions.

Good afternoon and a huge hello to Ghazia, Joshua, Zoya-Fathia Halimah and Enya.

We loved your book, Arctic Adventures and the important messages it gives about our planet. Are you writing a book at the moment?

I write books all the time – in fact, I am usually working on more than one book at a time. It can get a little bit confusing at times. I am writing a short book called Beware the Genie. As you can probably guess, the book has a genie in it. The story is set in our modern world and is about a girl called Mia who lives with her father on a small island. Mia's father is a fisherman and Mia goes out on his boat to help him. One day, they find a strange bottle in the fishing nets. Inside the bottle is a mischievous genie. The genie gives Mia three wishes (I wonder what you would wish for) but he warns that nothing comes for free and that everything has its cost.

You might be interested in the second book that I am working on right now – Terrifying T. Rex - because it is about the same characters that are in Arctic Adventure. Instead of travelling up to the Arctic to see polar bears, the heroes travel millions of years back in time and find themselves being chased by *Tyrannosaurus* rexes as they try to find a way back to our time. There's lots of other dinosaurs in the book and there are a few villains too (a bit like the ones in Arctic Adventure. Once I have finished this book I will be writing three more Dinosaur Heroes books. I enjoyed writing about Mo, Keira, Fernanda, Ling and Ronan, so it's fun to be writing about them again. I hope not of then get eaten or stepped on by a dinosaur.





Damian Harvey

How did you become an author?

I've been writing for young readers for about 23 years now – I know... it's a loooong time. I started by writing a story about a big gorilla with an itch that he couldn't reach. I sent it to some publishers to see if they liked it. Lots of people said they liked it, but not enough to make it into a book. These publishers asked me to send them more stories to look at. So I wrote more stories. While I was doing this, another publisher said that they liked my gorilla story so much that they wanted to make it into a book. That was three years after I first sent it to someone. The book came out in 2005 and it's called *An Itch To Scratch* – you might have it in your library. Since then, I have written about

180 books and I am busy writing more all of the time.

Do you have any tricks for what makes great writing?

I don't really have any tricks, but I think that to do some great writing you need to do some writing every day. That's what I do. You also need to read lots of different kinds of books or comics. This will help you see how people use words and different types of sentences to create a story.

I suppose that my best 'trick' would be to read it out loud. Even if there is no one in the room to read to, if you read what you have written out loud, you can hear if it sounds right and you can hear if you've done something wrong.

Do you have a favourite book?

This is a very difficult question because I read all sorts of different books. The first book I ever bought with my own pocket money was *Flat Stanley* by Jeff Brown. My favourite author is a man called Terry Pratchett. He wrote books for adults and young readers.

I hope that I've managed to answer your questions but if you would like to ask anything else, feel free to email again. I'm going back to the time of the dinosaurs now to see what happens next in the adventure. Have fun reading and writing...

Damian

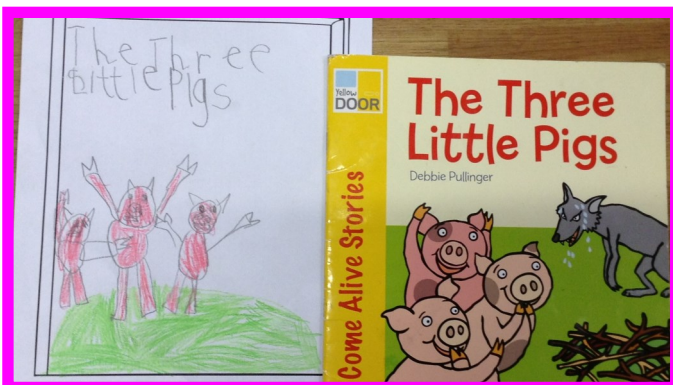
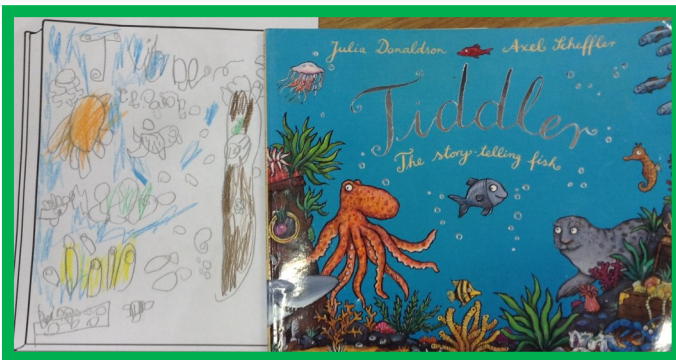
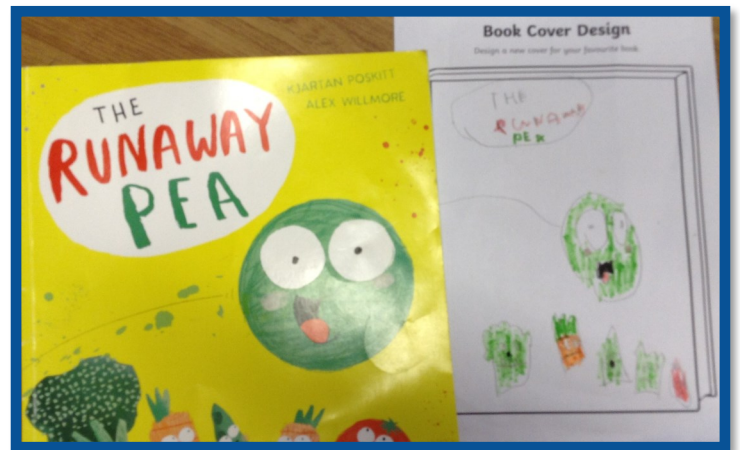
[Damian Harvey -
Children's Author](#)





Spotlight on Reception

Even our youngest children love hearing stories and sharing books. This World Book Day, the children re-designed the front cover of some of their favourite books. What wonderful illustrators we have at Blowers Green.

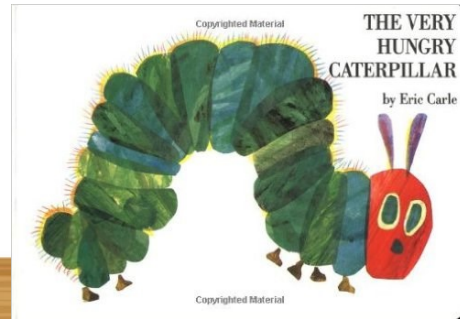
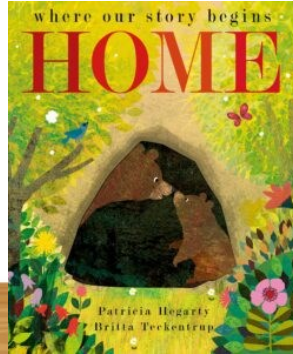




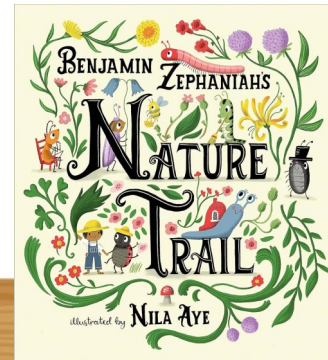
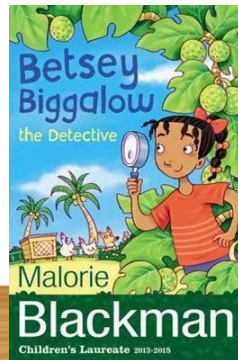
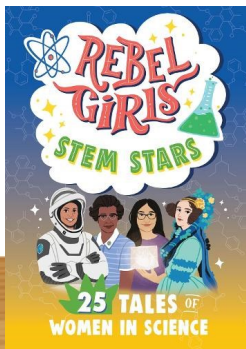
Seasonal Reads



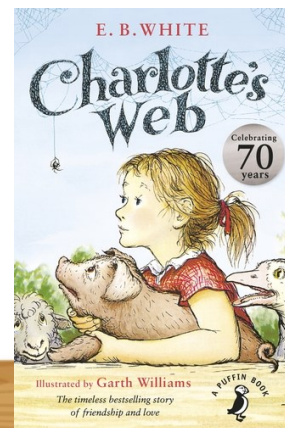
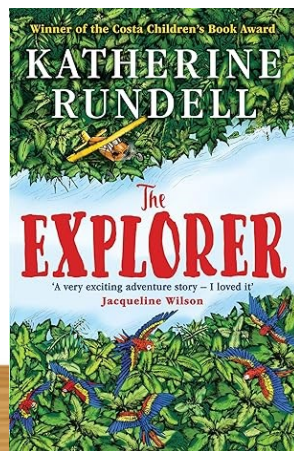
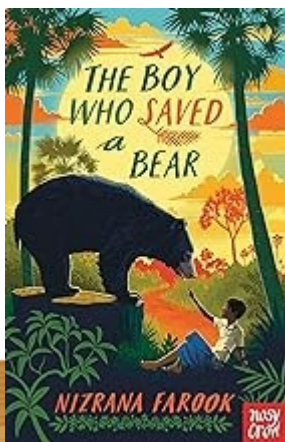
Winter is here! Take a look at these springtime recommendations. Don't forget to let us know what you've been reading—we love to hear all about your favorite books.



Younger readers EYFS and KS1



Ages 7-9

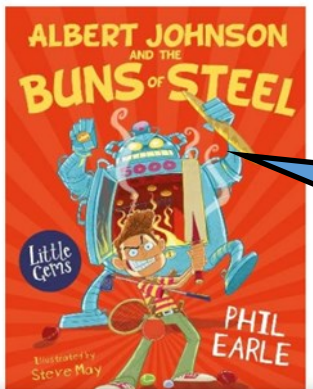


Ages 9-11

Book Quiz Team

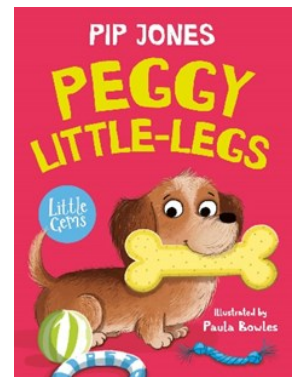
Recommendations

Our champion book quiz team share their recommendations.

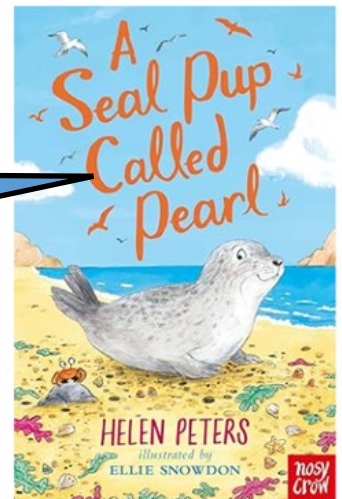


'This is a funny book and the ending is very surprising!'

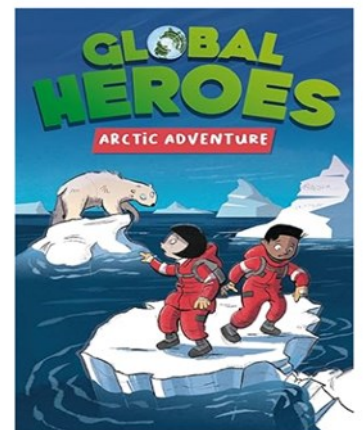
Zoya



'It's great as it has a powerful message about being kind to animals.' **Ghazia**



'This is a historical book and teaches you a lot about the first flight' **Joshua**



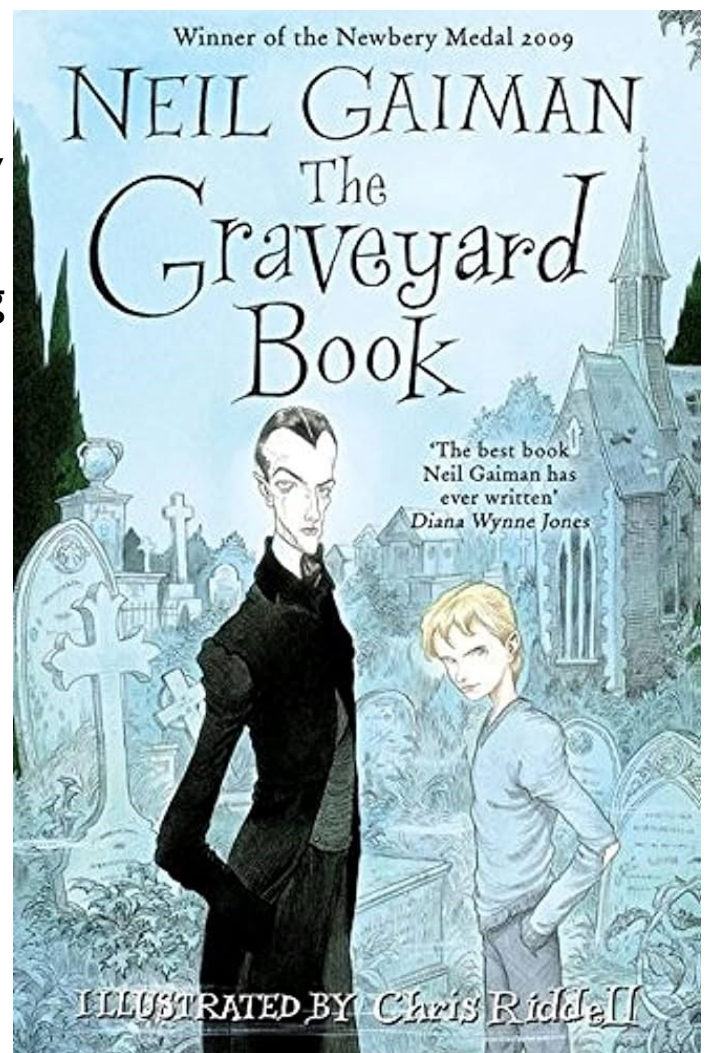
STAFF PICKS



Hear about all the wonderful books the adults in school have been reading.

Mr Thompson Recommends

Growing up can be tough but imagine growing up in a graveyard. That is a reality for our main character Bod. *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman is an absorbing read—it tells the story of an orphaned boy who lives and plays in a graveyard. There is a host of unusual and interesting characters as the story takes us from Bod's youngest days through to his teenage years, Mysterious creatures, ghosts and maybe even a vampire ensure a cast of interesting characters that will capture your imagination. The author Neil Gaiman knits together the supernatural world and the real world brilliantly. There is also a truly evil villain to look out for! A book for the older readers in school but one that once you've read it, you'll never forget!



THE Reading ROUNDUP

Take a Look at our New Books!

As a delightful initiative to foster a love for reading among learners, the school has joyfully received 400 new titles for its library through the World of Stories programme. With these new books, the school's library becomes a magical gateway to different worlds, sparking the imagination and nurturing a lifelong passion for reading. The hope is that these literary treasures will not only enhance the students' academic journey but also provide them with countless opportunities to embark on exciting literary adventures. The World of Stories initiative stands as a beacon, illuminating the path to a future where the joy of reading knows no bounds.



World Book Day 2024

Here at Blowers Green we know everyday is a book day, however, the World Book Day on the 7th March gave us the opportunity to share in our love of reading. Year Two treated us to a fantastic World Book Day assembly and children across school took part in book themed activities including an interactive online book and football quiz led by children's author Ben Lyttleton.



Reading Ambassadors

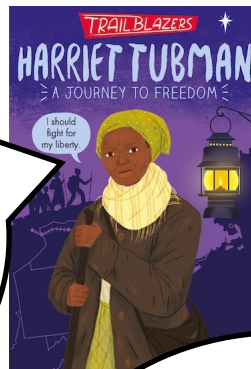
Introducing...

Kashfiya

In every *Reading Corner* newsletter this year, we'd like to introduce our Reading Ambassadors. Our Reading Ambassadors play an important role in school; they promote reading, books and a love for stories across our school. Let's meet **Kashfiya**.

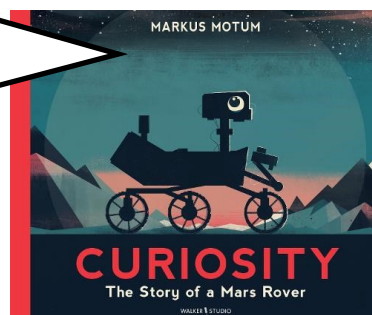


Harriet Tubman—I love this biography as it tells me about the past and one of my favourite heroes. She was strong and took risks to end slavery.



The best thing about reading is that it is like a movie in your head and it really gets your brain working hard.

Curiosity, the Story of the Mars Rover is about a robot who helped explore Mars. It's extraordinary how a robot can make it into

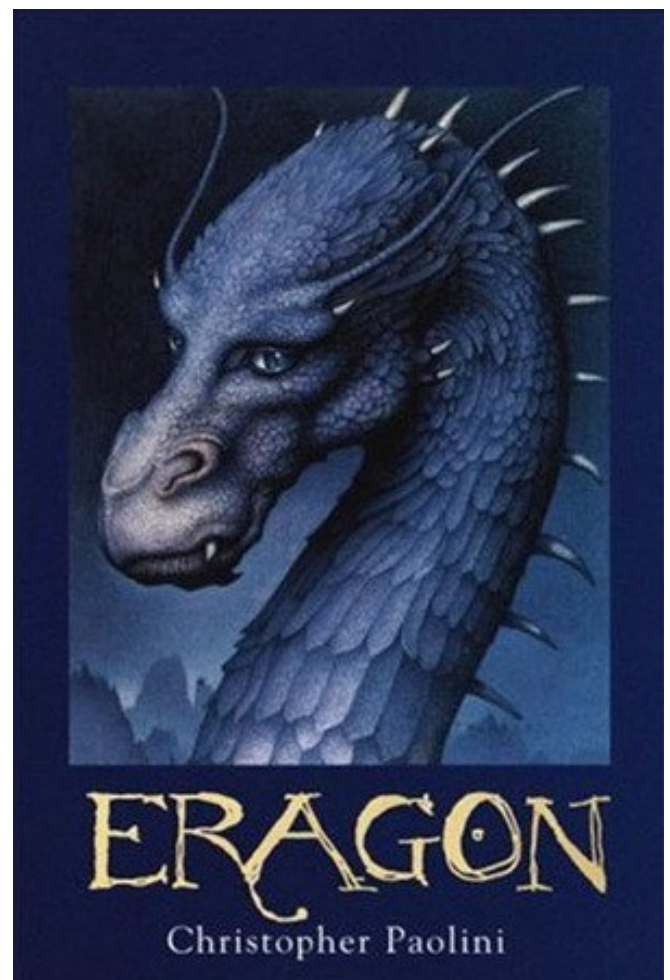
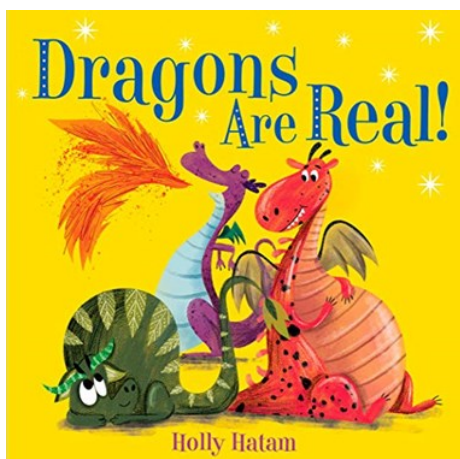
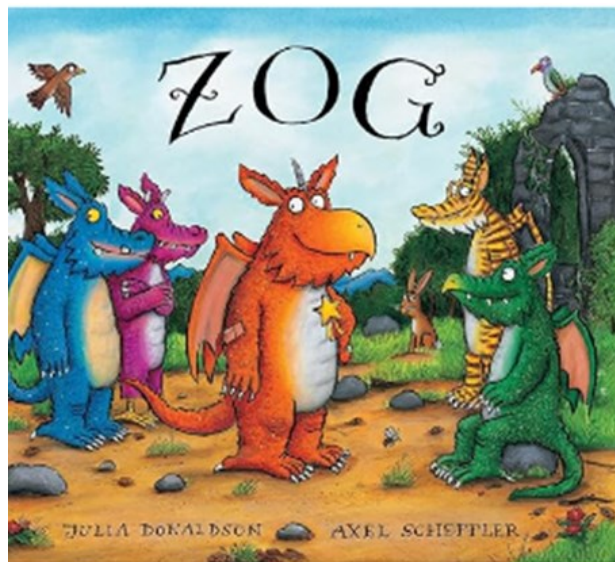
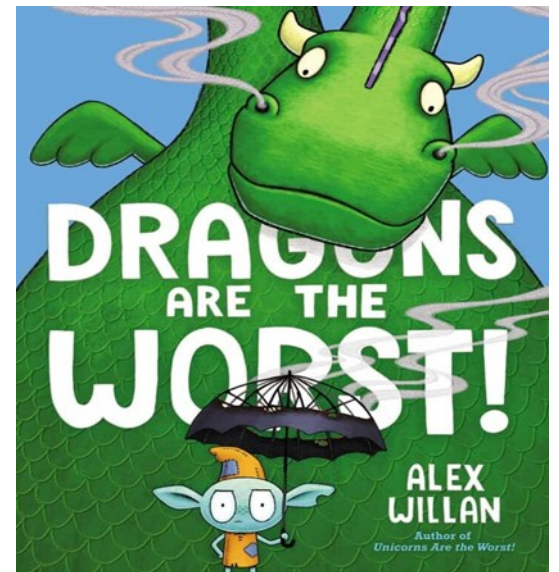
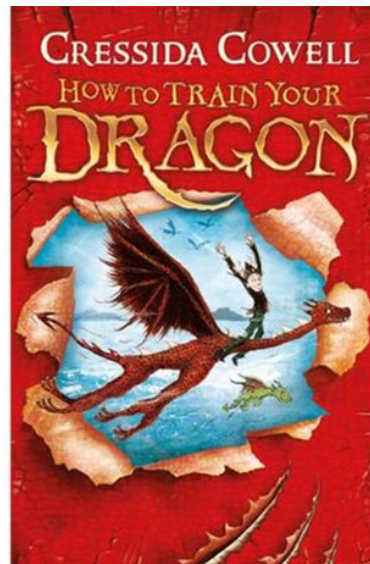
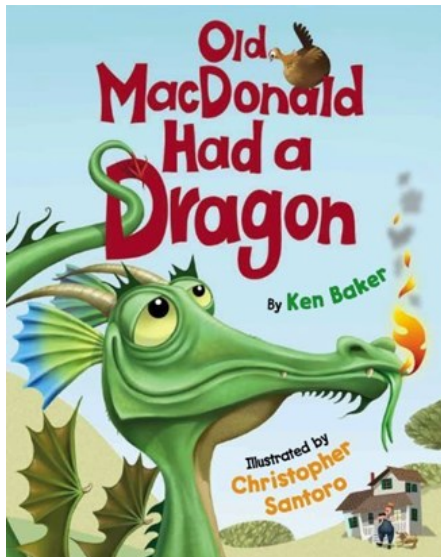


This book really helped me with my writing because the vocabulary was so good.





In the Chinese calendar; it is the year of the dragon. How many of these dragon-filled adventures have you read? Why not try some of these fiery titles!





Take a moment to read and share these wonderful poems that celebrate spring and the world around us..

Daffodils

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
and twinkle on the Milky Way,
They stretched in never-ending line
along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

By William Wordsworth



I Am The Song

I am the song that sings the bird.
I am the leaf that grows the land.
I am the tide that moves the moon.
I am the stream that halts the sand.
I am the cloud that drives the storm.
I am the earth that lights the sun.
I am the fire that strikes the stone.
I am the clay that shapes the hand.
I am the word that speaks the man.

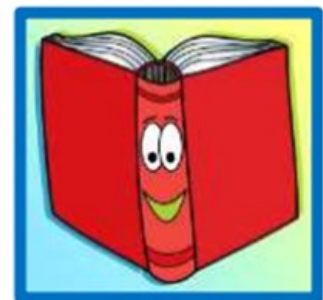
Charles Causley



QUIZ! TIME!

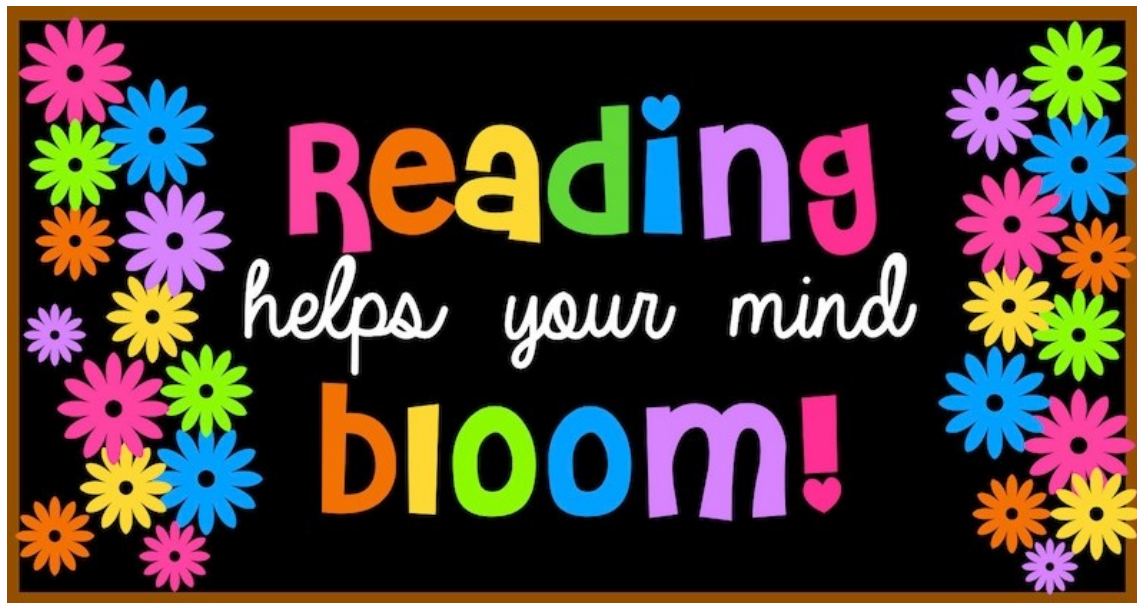



Look at the clues! Can you name the books?



Play just for fun or share your answers with your teacher, Mrs Martin and Mrs Adams for a prize!
Write down the title and author of the 9 popular children's books shared above. Can you name the book from the snippet shown?

What are you reading?

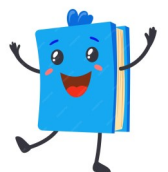


The book
IS ALWAYS
better! 

We want to hear all about your reading adventures. Let us know what you've been reading—we'd love to hear your recommendations.



Look out for the **Summer** edition of
The Reading Corner - Coming Soon!!



Find a story your child loves

Sharing stories with children helps them...

do better
in all
lessons

be
happier

have
close family
bonds

sleep
better

with brain
growth

understand
the world and
others

concentrate
better



BookTrust – supporting millions of children to discover a love of reading every year.

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Scan the QR code to find the perfect story for your child.