28 March 2025

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Newstead Wood School

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Happy reading! – Miss Mullins, Miss Walker, and Miss Henry

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UKLA Shortlists Announced

The annual UKLA Book Awards are the only national children's book awards judged by teachers. The awards 'seek to celebrate children's books in order to promote the place of books for young people in all educational settings, and to encourage teachers in their knowledge of the high-quality children's books that can reflect all identities and promote diversity being published every year.' The awards are broken down into four categories: 3-6+, 7-10+, 11-14+, and Information Books 3-14+. Previous winners in the 11-14+ categories include Crossing the Line by Tia Fisher (2024), The Crossing by Manjeet Mann (2023), and Punching the Air by Ibi Zoboi and Yusef Salaam (2022). Those of you familiar with the Carnegie Medal for Writing may notice that there is a significant crossover between the winning and shortlisted books for each award. This year, King of Nothing by Nathanael Lessore, The Things We Leave Behind by Clare Furniss, and Glasgow Boys all feature on both the UKLA 11-14+ shortlist and the Carnegie Medal for Writing shortlist. Keedie by Elle McNicoll is also shortlisted for the UKLA prize. King of Nothing and The Things We Leave Behind will enter library stock after this year's Y7 Carnegie Shadowing group have finished reading and analysing them.



et in Juniper five years before A Kind of Spark, Keedie is a powerful coming-of-age story that thoughtfully tackles ullying, navigating friendships, and the joys and difficulties of being an autistic teenager. As Keedie and her twi awn to, and fiercely protective of, their quiet younger sister Addie - who on the surface is the opposite of loud

Coming Soon to the Library... King of Nothing by Nathanael Lessore

Anton and his friends are the kings of year 9. They're used to ruling the school and Anton wears the crown. The other kids run away when he's about but that's the way he wants it - he's got a reputation to live up to after al So when he gets into serious trouble at school, he doesn't really care, but his mum most definitely does. She decides it's time for Anton to make some new friends and join the Happy Campers, a local activity group. Anton Feaching him some game is the least Anton can do to repay the debt. As the boys strike up an unlikely friendshi crowning glory or should he set his sights on better things?



Coming Soon to the Library... The Things We Leave Behind by Clare Furniss by morning, everything has changed... After years of a growing totalitarian regime, civil unrest in London has eached an all-time high, and it's no longer safe to stay in the city. Fleeing with nothing but her half-sister Billie, a y road and then by boat. What waits for the sisters on the other side – the start of a new life, or a mirror held up

Cackle by Rachel Harrison All her life, Annie has played it nice and safe. After being unceremoniously dumped by her longtime boyfriend, Annie seeks a fresh start. She accepts a teaching position that moves her from Manhattan to a small village upstate. She's stunned by how perfect and picturesque the town is. The people are all friendly and warm. Her new apartment is dreamy too, minus the oddly persistent spider infestation. Then Annie meets Sophie. Beautiful, charming, magnetic Sophie, who takes a special interest in Annie, who wants to be her friend. More importantly, she wants Annie to stop apologizing and start living for herself. That's how Sophie lives. Annie can't help but gravitate toward the self-possessed Sophie, wanting to spend more and more time with her, despite the fact that

the rest of the townsfolk seem...a little afraid of her. And like, okay. There are some things. Sophie's appearance is uncanny and ageless, her mansion in the middle of the woods feels a little unearthly, and she does seem to

wield a certain power...but she couldn't be...could she?

How to Read Paintings by Liz Rideal

How to Read Paintings is a valuable visual guide to Western European painting. Through a gallery of artworks accompanied by informative commentary, it enables readers to swiftly develop their understanding of the grammar and vocabulary of painting, and to discover how to look at diverse paintings in detail, closely reading their meanings and methods. In the first part of the book, the Grammar of Paintings, the author reveals how to read paintings by considering five key areas: shape and support, medium and materials, composition, style and technique, and signs and symbols, as well as the role of the artist. In the second part, we explore fifty paintings through extracted details, accompanied by insightful commentary, training the reader and viewer to understand context and discover meaning within art. As a collection, the pictures featured in How to Read Paintings have a strong relationship with one another, and underpin the story of painting. This book will be a valuable tool whether you are viewing the real thing on a gallery wall, or simply reading around the subject to learn more about Western art.

Gideon the Ninth by Tamsyn Muir (Recommended for Older Readers)

Muir's Gideon the Ninth, first in The Locked Tomb Trilogy, unveils a solar system of swordplay, cut-throat politics, and lesbian necromancers. Her characters leap off the page, as skillfully animated as arcane revenants. The result is a heart-pounding epic science fantasy. Brought up by unfriendly, ossifying nuns, ancient retainers, and countless skeletons, Gideon is ready to abandon a life of servitude and an afterlife as a reanimated corpse. She packs up her sword, her shoes, and her dirty magazines, and prepares to launch her daring escape. But her childhood nemesis won't set her free without a service. Harrowhark Nonagesimus, Reverend Daughter of the Ninth House and bone witch extraordinaire, has been summoned into action. The Emperor has invited the heirs to each of his loyal Houses to a deadly trial of wits and skill. If Harrowhark succeeds she will be become an immortal, all-powerful servant of the Resurrection, but no necromancer can ascend without their cavalier.

Without Gideon's sword, Harrow will fail, and the Ninth House will die.

Battle Royale by Koushun Takami

Koushun Takami's notorious high-octane thriller envisions a nightmare scenario: a class of junior high school students is taken to a deserted island where, as part of a ruthless authoritarian program, they are provided arms and forced to kill until only one survivor is left standing. Criticized as violent exploitation when first published in Japan—where it became a runaway best seller—Battle Royale is a Lord of the Flies for the 21st century, a potent allegory of what it means to be young and (barely) alive in a dog-eatdog world.

Out There Screaming by Jordan Peele (Recommended for Older Readers)

The visionary writer and director of Get Out, Us, and Nope, and founder of Monkeypaw Productions, curates this groundbreaking anthology of all-new stories of Black horror, exploring not only the terrors of the supernatural but the chilling reality of injustice that haunts our nation. A cop begins seeing huge, blinking eyes where the headlights of cars should be that tell him who to pull over. Two freedom riders take a bus ride that leaves them stranded on a lonely road in Alabama where several unsettling somethings await them. A young girl dives into the depths of the Earth in search of the demon that killed her parents. These are just a few of the worlds of Out There Screaming, Jordan Peele's

anthology of all-new horror stories by Black writers. Featuring an introduction by Peele and an all-star roster of beloved writers and new voices, Out There Screaming is a master class in horror, and—like his spine-chilling films—its stories prey on everything we think we know about our world... and redefine what it means to be afraid.







Piecing Me Together by Renée Watson

Jade believes she must get out of her neighbourhood if she's ever going to succeed. Her mother says she has to take every opportunity. She has. She accepted a scholarship to a mostly-white private school and even Saturday morning test prep opportunities. But some opportunities feel more demeaning than helpful. Like an invitation to join Women to Women, a mentorship program for "at-risk" girls. Except really, it's for black girls. From "bad" neighbourhoods. But Jade doesn't need support. And just because her mentor is black doesn't mean she understands Jade. And maybe there are some things Jade could show these successful women about the real world and finding ways to make a real difference.

Kay's Marvellous Medicine: A Gross and Gruesome History of the Human Body by Adam

The olden days were pretty fun if you liked wearing chainmail or chopping people's heads off. But there was one tiny little problem back then... doctors didn't have the slightest clue about how our bodies worked. It's time to delve into history and get some answers to some big questions, like: Why did patients gargle with wee? Why did people used to get paid for farting? How did a doctor save people's lives using a washing machine, a can of beans and some old sausages? What was the great stink? If you're sure you're ready, then pop a peg on your nose, pull on your wellies, wash your hands, and explore this gross and gruesome history of the human body!

The Bear and the Nightingale by Katherine Arden

Beware the evil in the woods... In a village at the edge of the wilderness of northern Russia, where the winds blow cold and the snow falls many months of the year, an elderly servant tells stories of sorcery, folklore and the Winter King to the children of the family, tales of old magic frowned upon by the church. But for the young, wild Vasya these are far more than just stories. She alone can see the



house spirits that guard her home, and sense the growing forces of dark magic in the woods...

Stormzy to Receive Honorary Cambridge Doctorate

Musician Stormzy, real name Michael Ebenezer Kwadjo Omari Owuo Jr, has been

nominated for an honorary doctorate from Cambridge University. Stormzy has been

nominated in the wake of his successful Stormzy Scholarship which funds two black

British students per year at Cambridge, covering their tuition fees and maintenance

costs. Following the initial success of the scheme which was launched in 2018, HSBC

agreed to fund a further 10 students per year. Cambridge University say that the

'Stormzy effect' has contributed to an increase in applications to Cambridge from

black students across the UK. So far 55 students have been supported by the Stormzy

Scholarship, and this year will see the largest group to graduate to date.

Stormzy will receive his honorary doctorate on the 25th of June, along with activist

and author Professor Angela Davis, Nobel Prize-winning economist Sir Oliver Hart

and 5 other notables. Stormzy's doctorate will be in the field of law, in recognition

of his philanthropic work and impact on education, music, sport, and literature. Click

International Children's Book Day



International Children's Book Day is celebrated annually on or around the 2nd of April. The date was chosen as it's the anniversary of the birth of fairytale writer Hans Christian Andersen. This year it falls on the 2nd of April. The intention of the day is to encourage people, especially children, to read and appreciate children's books. International Children's Book Day was established in 1967 by the International Board on Books for Young People

(IBBY), an organisation that promotes literacy and reading for children. Every year, the organisation chooses a country to sponsor the Day, as well as a theme. This year the sponsoring country is The Netherlands, and the theme is 'the freedom of imagination.' IBBY also invites a well-known author from each year's sponsoring country to write a message to children globally. An illustrator also creates a poster to promote the event. This year's chosen author is Rian Visser, and the poster artist is Janneke Ipenburg. To celebrate International Children's Book Day, you could revisit your favourite childhood books and share them with a younger sibling or cousin. You could also consider donating your old books to your local library. Click here to find out more about International Children's Book Day 2025.

The Wild Robot by Peter Brown

When robot Roz opens her eyes for the first time, she discovers that she is alone on a remote, wild island. She has no idea how she got there or what her purpose is but she knows she needs to survive. As Roz slowly befriends the animals, the island starts to feel like home - until, one day, her mysterious past comes back to haunt



here to read the original BBC article by Harriet Heywood.

In four years Stormzy has risen from one of the most promising musicians of his generation to a ideas worth fighting for. It's about knowing where you're from and where you're going. It's about annotated lyrics, and contributions from those closest to him, Rise Up is the #Merky story, and the

Rise Up: The #Merky Story So Far by Stormzy

spokesperson for a generation. Rise Up is the story of how he got there. It's a story about faith and the following your dreams without compromising who you are. Featuring never-before-seen photographs, record of a journey unlike any other.

World Book Day Peer-to-Peer Book Recommendations

On World Book Day we asked students in the library to recommend their favourite book (or books) to others. Books that are written in blue font are books that we currently have in library stock and are available to borrow/ reserve. The collated list of recommended books will soon be up as a display in the library, so if you're unsure about what to read next have a look and see if you can gather some inspiration from your peers' recommendations.

Better Than the

Movies by Holly

Bourne

Shatter Me by

Tahereh Mafi

Once Upon a Broken Heart

by Stephanie Garber

Disney Villains series by

Serena Valentino

Cradle: Unsouled by Will Wight

Mistborn Trilogy by **Brandon Sanderson**

We Solve Murders by Richard Osman

Fangirl by **Rainbow Rowell**

The *Infernal* Devices series by Cassandra Clare

The Day I Fell into a Fairytale by Ben Miller

Six of Crows by Leigh

Series by James

Dashner

Shreya, 7G

The Poppy War by R.F. Kuang

(older readers)

My Hero Academia by Kohei Horikoshi Letty, 7G

Wolf by Wolf by

Ryan Graudin

Aadya, 7F

We Were Liars

by E. Lockhart

Powerless by

Lauren Roberts

Avisha, 7W

Murder Most Unladylike by **Robin Stevens** Jolly Foul Play by Robin

Shikha, 7G

A Good Girls' Guide to Murder by Holly Jackson

Tara, 8G

The Girl Who Sang: A Holocaust Memoir of Hope and Survival by

Estelle Nadel and

Bethany Strout

Krisha, 7P

The *Once Upon a* Broken Heart series by Stephanie Garber Emily, 7N

Demon Slayer: Volume 8 by Koyoharu Gotouge

Frances Hodgson Burnett Shreva, 7G

The Secret Garden by

Five Nights at Freddies: Tales of the Pizzaplex

series by Scott Cawthon

Zara, 7N

Pride and Prejudice by

The Strange Case of Dr *Jekyll and Mr Hyde* by **Robert Louis Stevenson**

Jane Austen

Caraval by Stephanie Garber

A Good Girl's Guide to

Murder by Holly Jackson

Twisted Hate by Ana

Huang (older readers)

The Predator by RuNyx

(older readers)

Can You See Me? by

Rebecca Westcott and

Libby Scott

Deetya, 7W

Demon Slayer by

Koyoharu Gotouge

Aanya, 7S

Broken Flames by MK Ahearn (older readers)

The Inkheart Trilogy by Cornelia Funke

Twisted Trilogy by Ana Huang (older readers)

George Orwell's Son in Conversation with *The Guardian*



Richard Blair, son of author George Orwell, had a challenging start to life. Orwell and his wife Eileen adopted Richard as a baby in 1944, but tragically Eileen passed away due to complications from an operation just 9 months later. The Orwells' family and friends expected George to un-adopt Richard following his wife's death, but despite the circumstances Orwell was determined to raise him. George Orwell was 'perhaps the most influential writer of the 20th century' and used his books to rail against totalitarianism: Nineteen Eighty-Four and Animal Farm highlighting the issues of an authoritarian regime. Now, in an interview with The Guardian, Richard has spoken on the experience of being raised by such a man. Richard is now 80 years old, the same age as Animal Farm, lives in

England and has dedicated himself to preserving his father's legacy, viewing himself as the 'keeper' of Orwell's memory. The two men are quite different, as Orwell was a radical thinker while Richard enjoys a stable life in farming and property management. Richard shared insights about his parents, such as the fact his mother was 'quite the equal of [his] father in terms of intellectual capacity' and contributed greatly to his father's works, particularly Animal Farm, and how he views his father as 'a product of his time' when it comes to comments Orwell made about the Jewish community in Down and Out in Paris and London. Richard says he is proud to be George Orwell's son and is committed to sharing his father's story and teachings with others. Click here to read the full Guardian interview by Simon Hattenstone.

Animal Farm: A Fairy Story by George Orwell nimals of Manor Farm overthrow their master Mr Jones and take over the farm

themselves, they imagine it is the beginning of a life of freedom and equality. But gradually a cunning, other animals discover that they are not all as equal as they thought and find themselves hopelessly ensnared as one form of tyranny is replaced with another. Orwell's chilling 'fairy story' is a timeless and devastating satire of idealism betrayed by power and corruption.



Nineteen Eighty-Four by George Orwell One of Britain's most popular novels, George Orwell's Nineteen Eighty-Four is set in a society terrorised by a otalitarian ideology propagated by The Party. Winston Smith works for the Ministry of Truth in London, chief city of Airstrip One. Big Brother stares out from every poster, the Thought Police uncover every act of betrayal. When Winston finds love with Julia, he discovers that life does not have to be dull and deadening, and awakens to new possibilities. Despite the police helicopters that hover and circle overhead, Winston and Iulia begin to question the Party; they are drawn towards conspiracy. Yet Big Brother will not tolerate dissent \cdot even in the mind. For those with original thoughts they invented Room 101...

A Clergyman's Daughter by George Orwell

Intimidated by her father, the rector of Knype Hill, Dorothy performs her submissive roles of dutiful daughter play, by the hopelessness of preaching to the poor and by debts she cannot pay in 1930s Depression England Suddenly her routine shatters and Dorothy finds herself down and out in London. She is wearing silk stockings, has money in her pocket and cannot remember her name. Orwell leads us through a landscape of unemployment, poverty and hunger, where Dorothy's faith is challenged by a social reality that changes he

