



READING *Newsletter*

New year, new you...new books!



2023...where does the time go? With every new year brings the promise of revelry, resolutions and restrictions (mainly on the diet). But it's also the perfect time to dive into the most important 'r' of them all: reading. You might want to use the new year as a chance to learn something new – a skill, a hobby, a subject – or simple to fend off those January

blues; whatever you're hoping for, you might find the answer between the crisp pages of a new book.

What's new with reading?

New research on using audiobooks to engage young people in reading is showing some exciting developments.

- In 2022, 37.5% of children and young people said they enjoyed listening to audio either very much. Half of those children said listening to stories rather than watching videos helped them use their imagination more.
- 58.5% of those children said listening to an audiobook or podcast made it easier for them to understand a story or subject.
- Around 2 in 5 of those children said that it made them want to talk more about a subject with family and friends (41.9%) and that it got them interested in reading books (37.4%).

So, if you have some reluctant readers at home, try starting them off with an audiobook or podcast and then introduce a related book once their interest has been piqued!

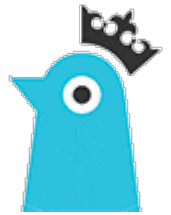


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Trying something different this new year

Storybird

Storybird.com is a gorgeous website where your child can write their own story by selecting pictures; you can even print the book later (it's not cheap but would make a beautiful birthday present from the whole family). It's an amazing way to engage kids with reading and unleash

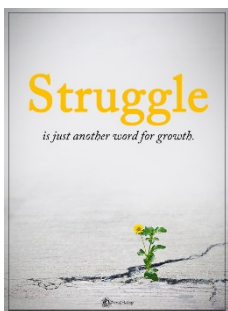


the author that might be waiting inside of them.



Shop 'til your drop

Shopping for books with older children can be a great way to reward and engage them in reading. Stopping for a coffee or hot chocolate and then browsing the shelves, letting them pick their book of choice, can be a lovely bonding experience as well as a great motivator to read.



Tip of the month

Reading aloud to, or with, young readers is a fantastic way to encourage them to follow in your footsteps. Not just that but, by seeing you stumble and struggle over new or complicated words, they start to realise that 'being perfect' isn't what matters. Barbara Jooze included Inuit words in her novel 'Mama, Do You Love Me?' partly because she saw the value in kids watching adults struggling with new words. Be that role model and embrace the mistakes.



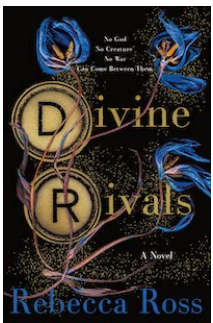
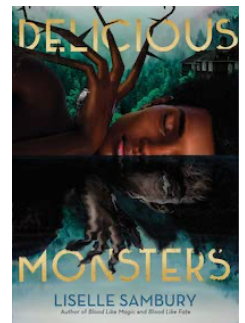
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Recommended Reads

(for the youngsters) **Delicious Monsters** by Lisette Sambury

Delicious Monsters follows the story of two teen girls investigating a mysterious mansion ten years apart. As Brittney investigates the mansion in the present, Daisy's story runs parallel in the past, with both timelines propelling the girls to face the most dangerous monsters of all: those that hide in plain sight.

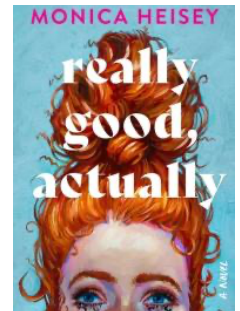


Divine Rivals by Rebecca Ross

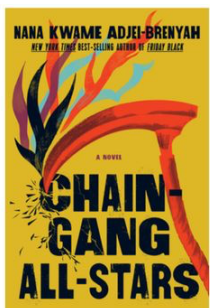
After centuries of sleep, the gods are warring again but Iris just wants to hold her family together: her mother is suffering from addiction and her brother is missing from the front lines. Her letters to her brother fall into the wrong hands and lead Iris to the front lines of battle: for her brother, the fate of mankind, and love.

(for the grown ups) **Really Good, Actually** by Monica Heisey

This is contemporary fiction written to make you laugh out loud. Beginning with the breakdown of Maggie's marriage only 608 days after it began, this novel explores what it means to start over as a young divorcee, while simultaneously navigating the maze that is



your 20s.



Chain-Gang All-Stars by Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah

This masterful dystopian fiction explores the depraved justice system in the US. Set in a world where inmates can fight for their freedom instead of serving a full sentence, the novel is an insidious take on what life would look like if the prison system were put into capitalist control.

Where next? BorrowBox – for your free books – and
info@bedlingtonacademy.co.uk for any help