



JPCE's Reading Newsletter



Autumn Term 2021

Author Spotlight: Clare Helen Welsh

Bracknell Library Opening Hours



What an honour it is to be invited to write a little something for your school newsletter.

No doubt things have been strange for you recently due to the Corona Virus pandemic, but I hope that your new term has started as calmly and as enjoyably as possible. Despite the ups and downs of 2021, one thing we can all do and be... is kind to each other. Lots of the books I write are about kindness. Sometimes I write funny books and sometimes I write about more serious issues, but kindness is a theme in all of them. One of my favourite quotes is '*Kindness is free - sprinkle it everywhere!*'

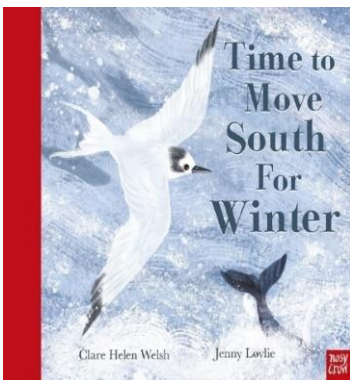
My most recent book is '*Time to Move South for Winter,*' tells the tale of an Arctic tern who makes the longest journey of any animal in the world! In fact, it's about this time of year that the Arctic terns leave their northern homes, heading to the south where it will soon be summer. Did you know that when it is winter in the northern parts of the world, it is summer in the south? The tiny tern in my book meets other animals making journeys called *migrations*. It has been illustrated by Jenny Lovlie who was born in Norway and grew up next to a colony of Arctic terns. She says they are her favourite animals! You can watch a video of me talking about the theme of the book and listen to me reading the opening pages here: [Clare Helen Welsh introduces Time to Move South for Winter - YouTube](#)

Monday - 9:30am to 5pm
Tuesday - 9:30am to 7pm
Wednesday - closed
Thursday - 9:30am to 7pm
Friday - 9:30am to 7pm
Saturday - 9:30am to 4pm
Sunday – closed

Address:

The Avenue
Bracknell
RG12 1BH
United Kingdom

Available now:



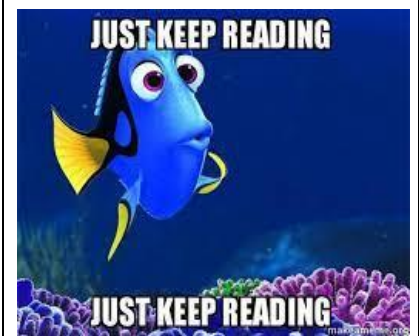
Available November:



You might also want to look out for my next picture book, which publishes in November. It's a retelling of Cinderella, shining a light on creativity and independence, inspired by the life of a female film maker called Lotte Reiniger.

There are activities linked to all my books on my website: www.clarehelenwelsh.com
Finally, I'd like to wish you all a fantastic Autumn term. Remember your imaginations are like muscles – they improve the more you use them! So, whether you enjoy drawing, writing, painting, sports or something else, persevere if it makes you happy. Who knows where it'll

Meme corner



lead you in life? You might even make a guest appearance on a school newsletter one day!

With love and kindness,
Clare xx

Books by the same author:



Poo! Is that you? and *Wee? It Wasn't Me!* (illustrated by Nicola O'Byrne) Fun, informative and tasteful, with the perfect combination of fact and fiction. Help Lenny find the source of the nasty niff interrupting his snooze and the puddle of piddle he accidentally slips in!

The Tide (illustrated by Ashling Lindsay) *Grandad's memories are like the tide. Sometimes near and full of life, other times far away and distant. Despite the challenges one thing is for certain - the girl loves her Grandad and her Grandad loves her. A story to help families live well with dementia.*

The Perfect Shelter (illustrated by Asa Gilland) A beautiful, powerful and uplifting story, exploring the complicated emotions we feel when someone we love is diagnosed with a serious illness and seeking emotional shelter during difficult times.

How Rude and *How Selfish* (illustrated by Olivier Tallec) Dot and Duck are two friends with a lot to learn. These stories initiate conversations about sharing, solving problems and how to play nicely with friends. They are also great fun to act out and read aloud.

Found a great book? Padlet it!

If you've read a great book, make sure you visit your year group Padlet site and leave a book review- we are always on the hunt for new books for our library!

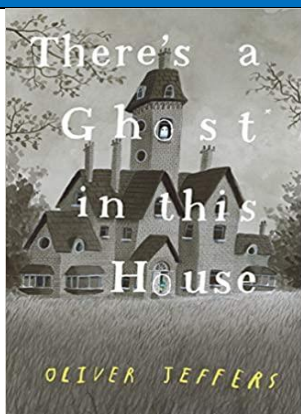
Year 6: <https://padlet.com/amerrills/jpyear6reviews>

Year 5: <https://padlet.com/amerrills/jpyear5reviews>

Year 4: <https://padlet.com/amerrills/jpyear4reviews>

The password for every site is: JP2020

What's new: EYFS and KS1 Fiction



There's a Ghost in this House **Oliver Jeffers**

A young girl lives in a haunted house, but has never seen a ghost.

Are they white with holes for eyes?

Are they hard to see?

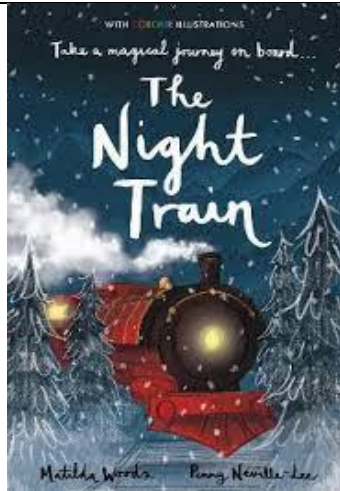
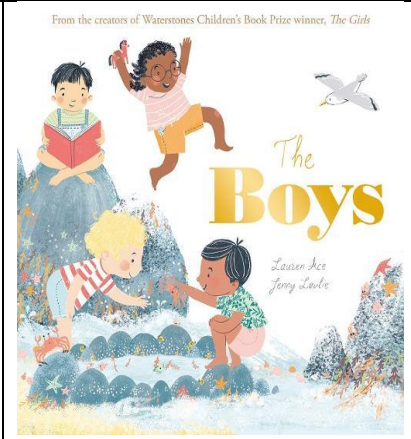
She'd love to know! Step inside and turn the transparent pages to help her on an entertaining ghost hunt, from behind the sofa, right up to the attic. With lots of friendly ghost surprises and incredible mixed media illustrations, this unique and funny book will entertain young readers over and over again!

The Boys

Lauren Ace , Jenny Lovlie

Following up *The Girls*, by tracing the paths taken through life by a quartet of young boys, Ace and Lovlie craft another charming and inclusive picture book which encourages difference and love.

The boys had been friends for as long as they could remember and a little while before that. They were like brothers. Follow the adventures of four boys as they grow up, forming bonds of friendship to last a lifetime - even if they are occasionally put to the test...



The Night Train

Matilda Woods

With a shrill whistle the Night Train is off, delivering its passengers to children's dreams. The yeti, the ballet dancer, the friendly monster and the princess all have starring roles.

Then the train comes to an unexpected halt. A tree has fallen across the track and there's no way the guard can move it on his own.

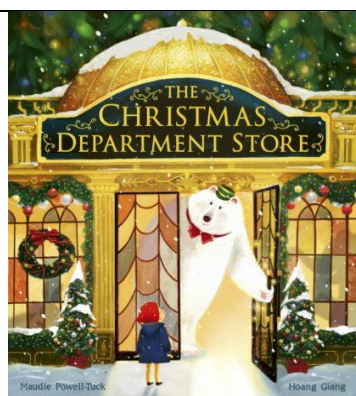
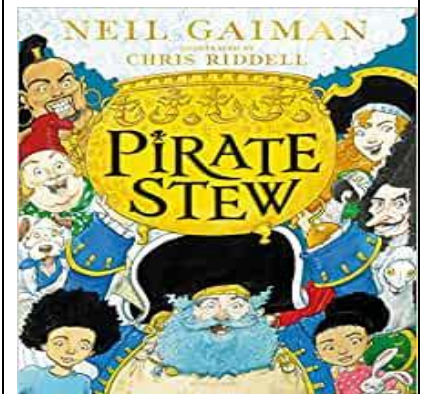
It's a race against time and the passengers will need to use all their talents to get the train moving again. Can they reach their dreams before midnight?

Neil Gaiman

Pirate Stew

Long John has a whole crew of wild pirates in tow, and - for two intrepid children - he's about to transform a perfectly ordinary evening into a riotous adventure beneath a pirate moon. It's time to make some PIRATE STEW.

Marvellously silly and gloriously entertaining, this tale of pirates, flying ships, donut feasts and some rather magical stew is perfect for all pirates, both young and old.



The Christmas Department Store

Maudie Powell-Tuck

Christmas for Benji has lost its magic.

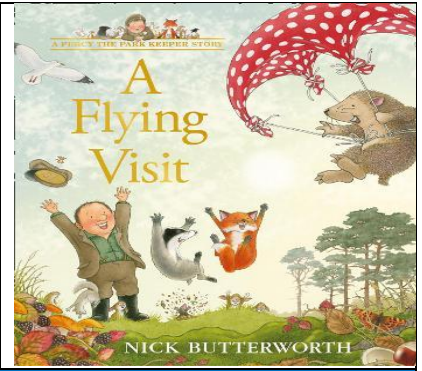
This year, his family can't afford a tree, or even a turkey. But then he stumbles upon the most extraordinary department store, where polar bears talk and the presents are out of this world.

A heart-warming story of love, laughter and family.

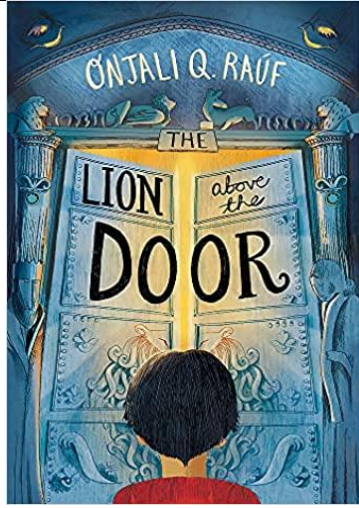
A Flying Visit Nick Butterworth

An exciting new picture book about much-loved Percy the Park Keeper and his animal friends from the bestselling creator of *One Snowy Night*.

Percy's friend the hedgehog has always longed to fly but without wings it's an impossible dream. Until, one day, a stranger arrives in the park, needing the hedgehog's help. Will his wish come true at last?



What's new: KS2 Fiction



The Lion above the Door Onjali Q. Rauf

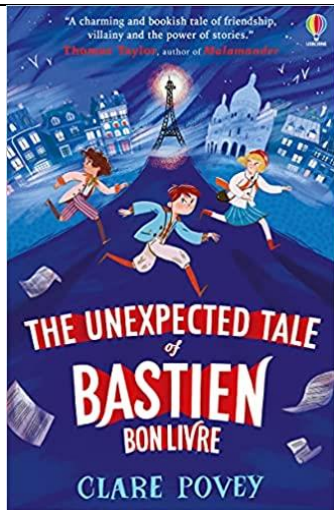
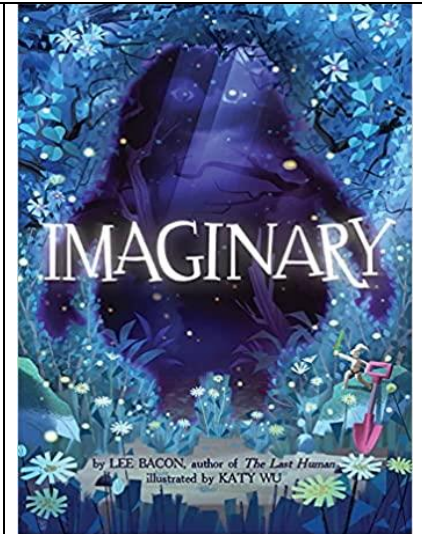
Leo and his best friend Sangeeta are the odd ones out in their school. But as Leo's dad is always telling him, it's because they're special. Only thing is, if they're so special, how come they never see anyone who looks like them in their school history books?

Then, on a class trip to a nearby cathedral, Leo's attention is drawn to a large marble slab high above the doors of the hall. Right there, bang in the middle of a list of war heroes, Leo finds himself staring at something incredible: his own name. For readers 9+

Imaginary Lee Bacon

After the death of his father five years ago, all Zach wanted was an escape from the real world. So his imaginary friend, Shovel, hasn't faded away like the other kids' have.

But now Zach's in middle school, and things are getting awkward. His best friend ditched him for a cooler crowd. His classmates tease him in the hallways. He still misses his dad. Reality is the worst. Which is why Zach makes regular visits to a fantasy world with Shovel. But is Zach's overactive imagination helping him deal with loss or just pushing people away?



The unexpected tale of Bastien Bon Livre Clare Povey

Bastien Bonlivre is a boy with a big imagination, determined to finish the story his parents started, left to him in a red notebook.

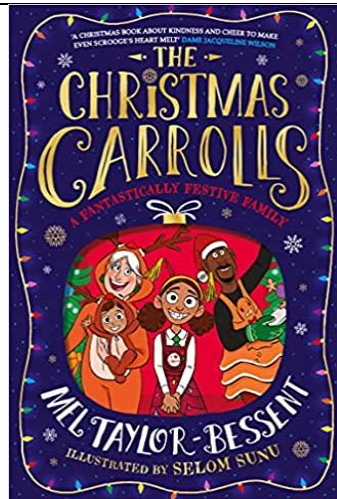
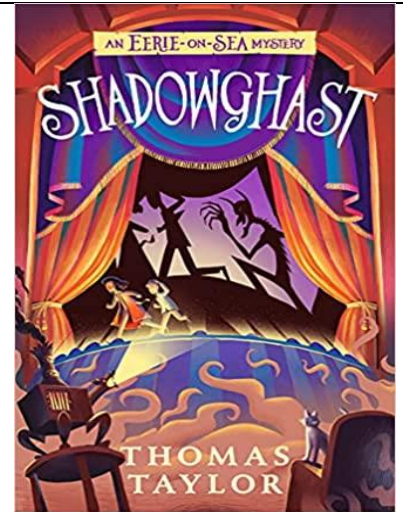
On the other side of Paris, bestselling author Olivier Odieux is struggling to complete his latest novel. Along with his villainous brothers, he is masterminding his greatest plot yet...one that will spread fear throughout the city and beyond.

What connects these two stories is a dangerous secret, a hidden mystery and an unexpected race across Paris for the truth. Can Bastien and his friends Alice, Theo and Sami be brave enough to stop Olivier stealing the ending they deserve?

Shadowghast Thomas Taylor

A creepy magician with a shadowy act. A legend that goes back to the dawn of time. Eerie-on-Sea just got stranger. And darker...

A mysterious stage magician has set up in the theatre at the end of the pier, with an act so hypnotic and strange that Herbie Lemon and his friend Violet Parma suspect dark forces are at work. Meanwhile, folk are disappearing from Eerie-on-Sea, and no one knows why. There is an Eerie legend that goes back to the dawn of time, about a creature made of darkness that devours the shadows of the living. But could the Shadowghast really have returned?



The Christmas Carrolls Mel Taylor- Bessent

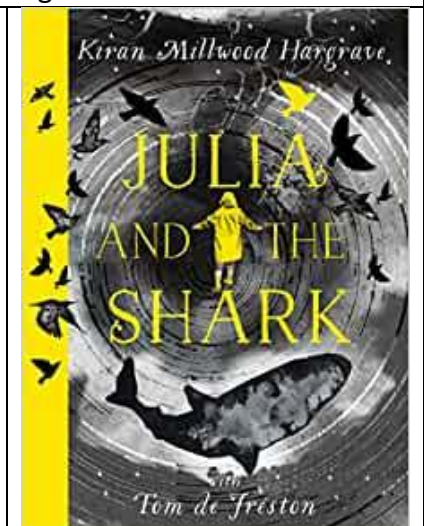
Wish it could be Christmas every day? Well, for nine-year-old Holly Carroll and her family, it is! Living her merriest life in a house with year-round fairy lights and Christmas trees, a carol-singing toilet and a diva donkey who thinks he's a reindeer, home-schooled Holly tries to spread cheer wherever she goes.

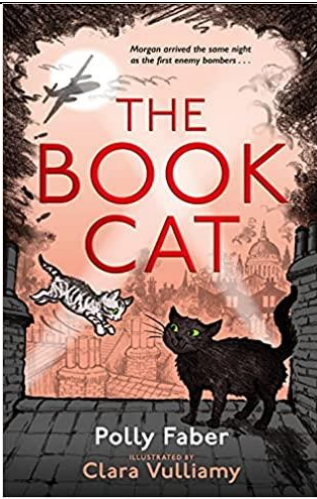
But when she goes to a new school with a singing Santa backpack and first day Christmas cards (during a heatwave in September!), she realises not everyone shares her enthusiasm for spreading cheer. In fact, when the neighbours try to remove the Carrolls from the street and Holly discovers a group of children that may not get a Christmas at all, her snowglobe world begins to crack.

Julia and the Shark Kiran Millwood Hargrave

The shark was beneath my bed, growing large as the room, large as the lighthouse, rising from unfathomable depths until it ripped the whole island from its roots. The bed was a boat, the shark a tide, and it pulled me so far out to sea I was only a speck, a spot, a mote, a dying star in an unending sky...

Julia has followed her mum and dad to live on a remote island for the summer - her dad, for work; her mother, on a determined mission to find the elusive Greenland shark. But when her mother's obsession threatens to submerge them all, Julia finds herself on an adventure with dark depths and a lighthouse full of hope... For readers 9+





The Book Cat

Polly Faber

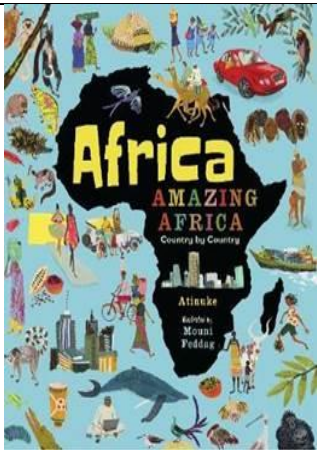
This is a classic wartime tale of a (real!) cat who made his home at the Faber offices and decided he'd never leave.

Morgan is a young orphan who lives off scavenging - until he finds a cosy home at a famous London publishing house. Over time he learns a trade - and soon becomes the very best book cat in the business. And then the Blitz begins. Morgan finds himself training up twenty odd kittens to be book cats, and then there is the small matter of secretly evacuating them out of London. Happily, Morgan has a plan.

Set in war-torn London, charmingly illustrated, and full of heart and verve.

Non-Fiction finds:

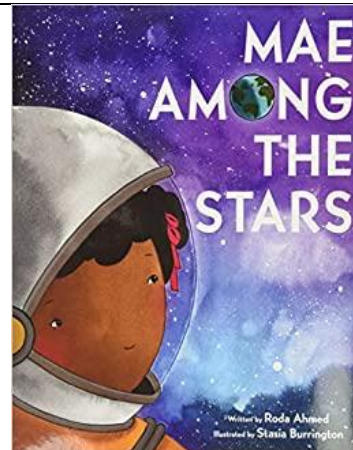
For black history month, we've put together a list of children's books that celebrate black lives and explore black history around the globe. However, we believe these books are just as important all year round, too.



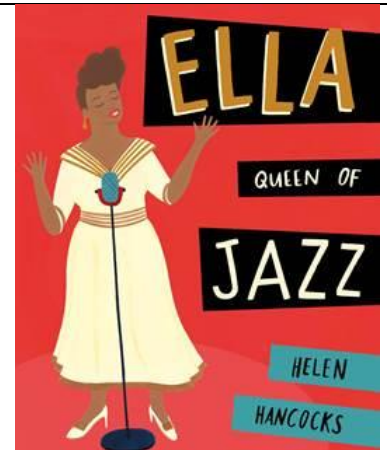
**Africa, Amazing Africa:
Country by Country**
Atinuke



**Little People, Big
Dreams: Muhammad
Ali**
Ma Isabel Sánchez
Vegara



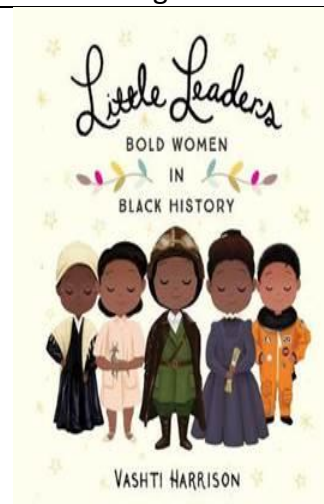
Mae Among the Stars
Roda Ahmed



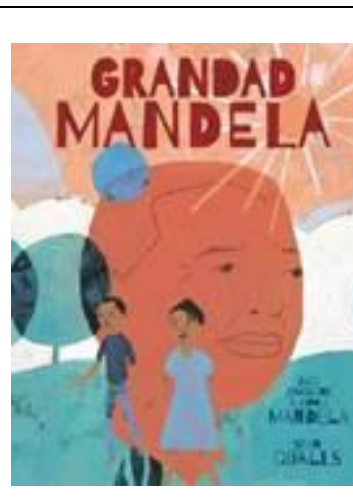
Ella: Queen of Jazz
Helen Hancocks



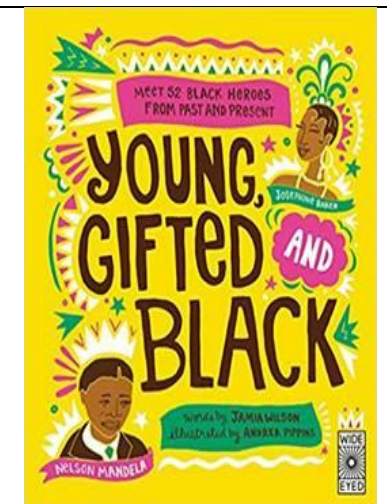
**Katherine Johnson: A Life
Story**
Leila Rashee



**Little Leaders: Bold
Women in Black
History**
Vashti Harrison



Grandad Mandela
Zazi Ziwelene & Zindzi
Mandela



**Young, Gifted and Black:
Meet 52 Black Heroes from
Past and Present**
Jamia Wilson

Have you tried...?

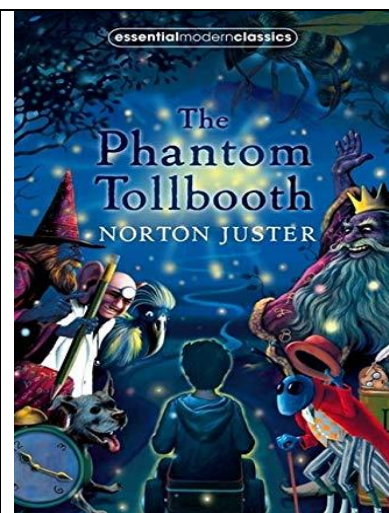
Mrs Merrills recommends: The Phantom Tollbooth

This is my favourite book of all time!

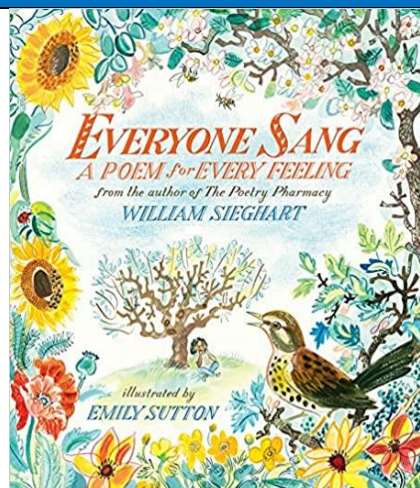
I love the use of word play, and the unusual places and people that Milo and Tock (a literal watch dog: he has a watch as his body!) encounter on their adventures to save the Princesses Reason and Rhyme, which seem to get stranger with every chapter.

My favourite part in the story is when Milo visits Dictionopolis, and eats with the King of the city- King Azaz the Unabridged. I have always wanted to be at that feast, and to see all the characters' faces as they devour each course- which turns out to be not exactly the feast that Milo had in mind!

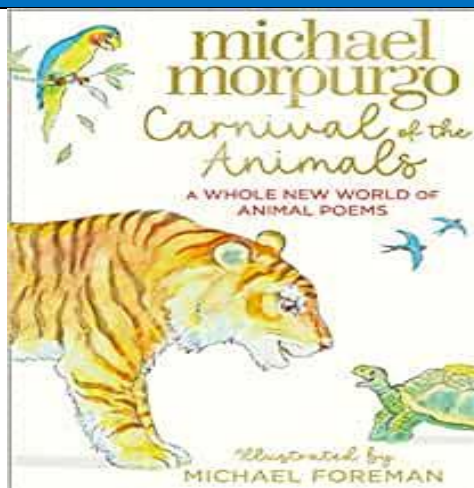
Full of twists and turns, this hilarious book is great for Key Stage 2.



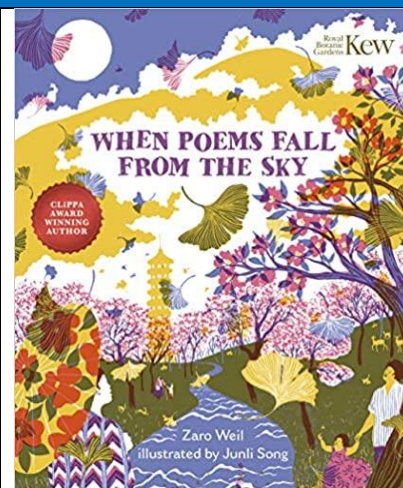
Poetry: Why not try reading...



Everyone Sang: A Poem for Every Feeling
William Sieghart



Carnival of the Animals
Michael Morpurgo



When Poems Fall from the Sky
Zaro Weil

Important Dates, Events & Competitions for Literacy

October

7 th October 2021	National Poetry Day	National Poetry Day is a UK-wide celebration of poetry, taking place on 7th October 2021, and our theme is Choice. Over the years we've had poetry in schools, poetry in burger vans, poetry on the news, poetry on the side of buildings, poetry strapped to the legs of carrier pigeons, and much much more. All we ask on the day is that you celebrate poetry, and use the hashtag #NationalPoetryDay to let us know about it. Below are some suggestions and links to help you get started. https://nationalpoetryday.co.uk/celebrate-national-poetry-day/
Sat 2nd Oct - Sun 10th Oct 2021	Henley Literary Festival	Henley Literary Festival is established as one of the UK's biggest book festivals, full of famous authors for both children and adults like. https://henleyliteraryfestival.co.uk/about/
Saturday October 16th to Sunday October 17th	Wokingham Children's Book Festival	A two day festival where you can meet and listen to talks by authors of children's books. Learn about the process of writing and have a lot of fun! Here will be 9 Authors at the event giving sessions on subjects such as the writing process and their characters. We plan to stream live all sessions on Crowdcast.

		Saturday it is 4 authors with options to attend in person as well as online. Sunday everything is online only. https://wokingham-tc.gov.uk/bookfest/
Deadline Friday 22nd October 2021	Young Writer's Competition- KS1	Let's fuel your pupils' imaginations with poetry... The Poetry Bus is here to engage and motivate your little learners aged 5-7 to write their very own poems. Children can choose to write a poem in any style or theme, giving them the opportunity to be involved and help foster a life-long love of poetry https://www.youngwriters.co.uk/competitions/KS1/poetrybus
Deadline Friday 22nd October 2021	Young Writer's Competition- KS2	With This Is Me, give every pupil the chance to shine! Your child can explore who they are and it's a great way to discuss emotions in a safe space. From writing about someone who inspires them to their dreams for the future or even an acrostic using their name or a word that describes them, there is so much to get your child enjoying poetry writing. The theme is "Choices" . A young writer can choose to empower themselves, and others, through the power of their words https://www.youngwriters.co.uk/competitions/KS2/thisisme?view=ind
The month of October	Black History Month	For nearly 40 years, the UK has celebrated Black History Month throughout October. Originally, this awareness month was founded to recognise contributions made by people of African and Caribbean backgrounds in the UK over many generations. Nowadays, Black History Month has expanded and progressed to include the history of all black people. Black History Month 2021 - Proud To Be

November

Deadline 5 th November	National Literacy Trust	We are calling young writers (9 to 14 years old) from across the country to take part in our story writing competition. This year's topic is 'Water Stories.' Water is a vital resource. It is precious and it is finite. Today, it is more important than ever to raise awareness of what water means to our society. You can help by writing a story! Story length: 500- 750 words. The competition is open to participants aged 9 to 14 years old (years 5 to 9) from across the UK. Story writing competition 2021 National Literacy Trust
November 8th- 14th	Children's Book Week	Children's Book Week is the annual celebration of books for young people and the joy of reading. Established in 1919, Children's Book Week is the longest-running national literacy initiative in the country. Every year, young people across the country participate by attending events at schools, libraries, bookstores, celebrating at home, and engaging with book creators both online and in person. https://everychildareader.net/cbw/about/
November 5th- 21st	Richmond Literature Festival	Richmond Literature Festival is produced by Richmond Arts Service in partnership with the Libraries Service. Events take place in libraries and venues across the borough and in partnership with many local organisations. The festival has been bringing writers and readers together for 30 years. We have taken stories and ideas across the borough, into theatres, historic houses and every library. We have worked with a huge variety of community partners to welcome everyone from best-selling authors to local talent. Whats on at Richmond Literature Festival 2021 — all events — Richmond Literature Festival (squarespace.com)
11 th November	Remembrance Day and Remembrance Sunday	Remembrance Day takes place on 11 November each year, whilst Remembrance Sunday takes place on the second Sunday of November each year. Remembrance honours those who serve to defend our freedom and way of life. It recognises the sacrifice of the Armed Forces community across the Commonwealth, as well emergency services and innocent civilians killed through conflict and terrorism. Teaching Remembrance Learning Resources Royal British Legion
The month of November	National Non Fiction November 2021	The theme chosen for this year is a nod to all the real-life superheroes out there. Ordinary people who do the most extraordinary things to make a positive difference to the world we live in. Spanning history and from all around the globe, ground-breakers, freedom fighters, political pioneers, environmental activists, super

		<p>scientists, awesome authors, inspiring inventors, sporting superheroes, and rebels who have rocked the world.</p> <p>National Non Fiction November 2021 Federation of Children's Book Groups (fcbg.org.uk)</p>
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December		
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Before 3rd December 2021	The Royal Mint Museum	<p>For the second year running we are holding our short story competition for pupils aged 8-11. This time the topic is the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee in 2022 - which means she will have been Queen for 70 years! All you have to do is send us a story of no more than 500 words and you could see your story illustrated by a professional artist as well as winning a special silver coin for yourself and £5,000 worth of equipment and books for your school library. For more information see our frequently asked questions below or email storycompetition@royalmintmuseum.org.uk</p> <p>https://www.royalmintmuseum.org.uk/learning/short-story-competition/</p>
Early December	Royal Mail	<p>Each year, Santa's elves at the Royal Mail can help you get a letter from Santa, if children write to him by early December.</p> <p>https://www.royalmail.com/christmas/letters-to-santa</p>