



BOOK BOX BITES

February '24 Newsletter: Vol 16

Recommended reads and WBD planning ideas

This issue is filled with some recent reads and recommendations as well as some last minute ideas for World Book Day.

Do pop it up in the staff room to share with others and for a daily drip feed of reviews, follow me over on Instagram @mrsbrownsbookbox.

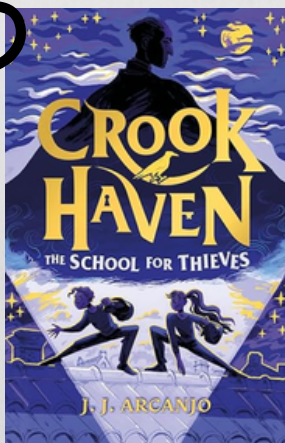
Esther x

Useful Dates coming up February

- LGBT History Month
- 5th - 11th Children's Mental Health Week
- 10th - 24th Lunar New Year
- 14th - Valentine Day
- 26th - Tell a Fairytale Day



MY MONTHLY MIDDLE GRADE RECOMMENDATION



I loved the first two books in this series. A brilliant take on the boarding school genre.

READING FOR PLEASURE ~ RESEARCH

Headlines from the [NLT Report into Children's reading in 2023](#) (click for link) demonstrates why it remains so important to champion reading.

Reading enjoyment:

Just 2 in 5 (43.4%) children and young people aged 8 to 18 said they enjoyed reading in their free time in 2023. This is the lowest level since we first asked the question in 2005.

Fewer children and young people who receive free school meals (FSMs) said they enjoyed reading compared with their peers who do not receive free school meals (39.5% vs. 43.8%).

Reading frequency:

Fewer than 3 in 10 (28.0%) children and young people aged 8 to 18 said that they read daily in 2023, matching levels seen in 2022.

Children's reading environment:

Within the 8 to 18 age group, 1 in 2 (52.9%) told us they had been encouraged to read by their parents/carers. 3 in 5 (58.4%) had seen their parents/carers read, while 1 in 5 (19.9%) had read with their family.



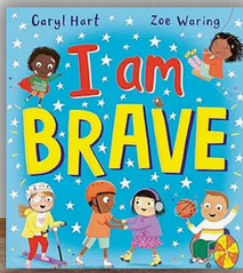
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RECENT READS

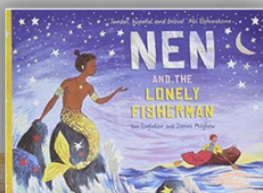
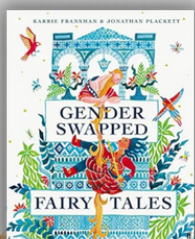
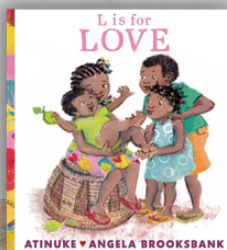
These shelves are filled with some recent reads, perfect for classrooms, assemblies and homes, this month and beyond.

Children's Mental Health Week - My Voice Matters



Lunar New Year - it is important we teach children that Lunar New Year is celebrated beyond China and throughout many countries throughout Asia.

Books about Love



Fairytales with an LGBTQ+ twist. Find teaching resources on the Owllet Press website for Cinder and Ella here.



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EMPATHY LAB COLLECTION LAUNCHED

The Empathy Lab 2024 #ReadforEmpathy collection was launched this week. You can find it here.

There's so many incredible books featured within it that were chosen because they:

- Help children understand and share emotions
- Highlight important world issues
- Show diversity and identity
- Have brilliantly written characters the reader can empathise with
- Act as windows and mirrors
- Inspire empathy in action
- Show life's challenges



*Empathy is a skills that can be taught and books are so empathy rich. They inspire us to act too - perhaps you want to campaign about climate change after reading Hannah Gold's *The Last Bear* or write to lonely members of the community after reading Tom Percival's *The Invisible*?*



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10 EASY IDEAS FOR WBD

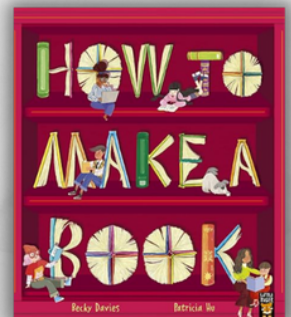
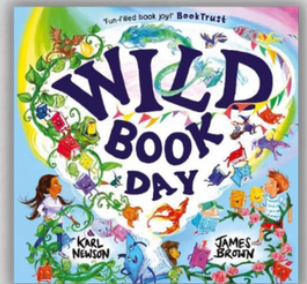


For more ideas search the back catalogue for [last year's newsletter!](#)

Use any activity as a chance to showcase and talk about stories.

1. **Competition idea:** Create Story Spoons that can then be used in the classrooms/library.
2. **No cost ideas:** Children and staff create 1 minute video reviews
3. Place images of story characters around school and go on a scavenger hunt.
4. Decorate the classroom door as a book.
5. Older children read to the younger children or teachers swap classes to read a story.
6. Most Memorable scenes freeze frame quiz/bookish charades.
7. **Getting books into homes:** Invite a local bookshop in so the children can swap their vouchers for a WBD book
8. Book Swap
9. **Whole School Celebration:** Every child chooses a book, then photocopy the covers and create a huge display of them all.
10. Book and biscuit, book and bacon butty/breakfast, cakes for a character, story cafe for parents.

Books about Books!



DISCLAIMER

This is not an exhaustive list and many/if not all, I am sure you will have seen elsewhere. Some ideas have been kindly shared by friends but these are mostly ideas I have used in the past or seen used successfully. I've also tried to be mindful of the cost of living crisis.