



# BOOK BOX BITES

June Newsletter: Vol 10

## Rainbows for pride and empathy!

Hi and happy last half term of the school year! I hope you have all enjoyed a wonderful and restful week of sunshine this half term. I know that this last part of the school year can be jam packed, so making time for reading, story time, book talk and sharing together is even more important than ever to help keep equilibrium and calm in the classroom! This issue will cover some recommended reads for Empathy Day and Pride Month and there will be the usual sprinkling of research, school libraries and reading for pleasure.

Do pop this up in your staff room ~ teacher expertise is one of the keys to creating life long readers.

Esther x

## Useful Dates coming up

- 1st - 30th ~ Pride Month
- 5th ~ World Environment Day
- 8th ~ World Oceans Day
- 18th ~ Father's Day
- 19th - 25th ~ Refugee Week
- 23rd ~ Women in Engineering Day
- 29th ~ Children's Art Week



*'If you are interested in how you can foster children's well-being and resilience, there is good evidence that empathy should be a key priority.'*  
- Dr Robin Banerjee

## Reading for Empathy ~ the research

There is much evidence to show that meeting characters and different situations in literature builds our understanding of others – we notice their feelings, we step into the shoes of others and imagine how they might feel; and we act accordingly to help others or to affect social change.

There's a great bbc article that summarises some of the research and theory here: [Does reading fiction make us better people? - BBC Future](#)

*'The empathy we feel for book characters wires our brains to have the same sensitivity towards real people'*  
- Raymond Marr, York University, Toronto





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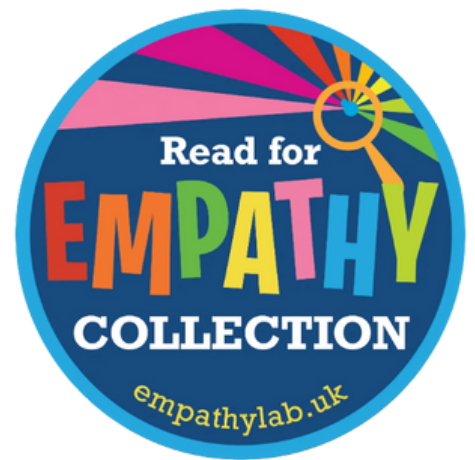
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## Reading for Empathy contd...

Have you checked out [www.empathylab.uk](http://www.empathylab.uk) yet? If not, I'd urge you to do so. You'll find a wealth of information including empathy building reading lists, author videos and resources for #empathyday2023 this Thursday (8th June) and for all year round.

I absolutely love their five mission empathy challenges:

- Empathy Power Reads ~ consciously reading for empathy
- Empathy 360 ~ seeing the world through the eyes of another
- Empathy Exchange ~ connecting with someone you don't know
- Empathy Emotions Map ~ understand and share feelings ~ there are some incredible examples created by authors and illustrators for inspiration
- Making an Empathy Resolution.



This is one of my favourite themes in children's books.

Here's my recommendations below.

GRAPHIC NOVELS SAY SO MUCH THROUGH THEIR IMAGES - GREAT FOR EMPATHY BUILDING CONVERSATIONS



NON-FICTION TO EMPOWER CHILDREN TO USE THEIR EMPATHY SUPERPOWER FOR CHANGE

POWERFUL POETRY THAT FOCUSES ON EMOTIONAL EMPATHY



PICTURE BOOKS FOR ALL AGES



ONE OF MY ALL TIME FAVOURITE EMPATHY BOOKS





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## A MONTH FULL OF IMPORTANT DATES AND BOOKS TO MATCH

### Rainbow shelves for pride

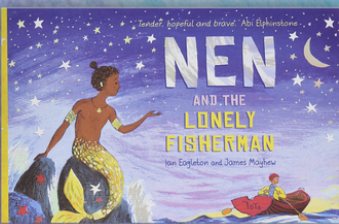
Cinder and Ella is an LGBTQ+ retelling of the traditional fairytale with, you guessed it, a lesbian love story at it's heart. With incredible Mediterranean landscapes that give Disney vibes and a feminist slant that challenges traditional tropes, it's a great one to use in the classroom.

I've done the work for you too and have created some resources to accompany the book that can be accessed via the owlet press website.

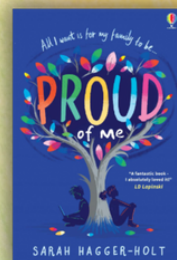
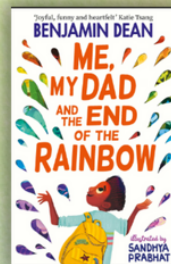


Click the link here to access these resources via the Owlet Press website <https://www.owletpress.com/resources>

## MORE PRIDE FILLED PAGES



Click [here](#) for a read aloud by Stephen Fry.



## WOMEN IN STEM







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## LIBRARY TIP ~ TAKE STORYTIME OUTSIDE

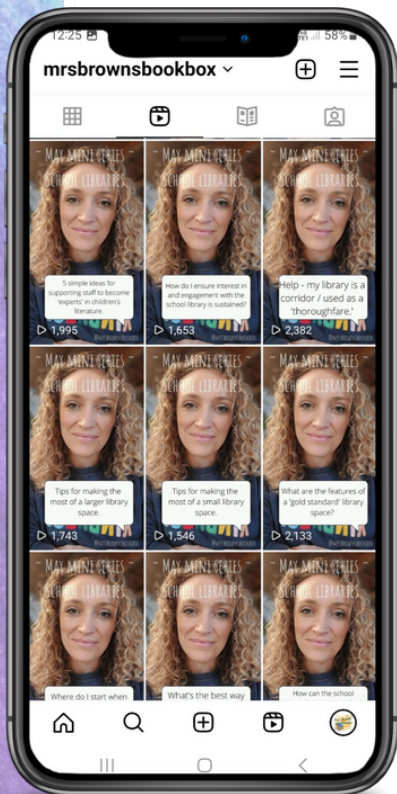
Summer is the perfect time to take your reading outside. I still remember teachers taking us outside to read as a child under a huge beech tree in the school grounds. It's a great time to take the library outside too.

All you need to create the perfect playtime portable library is:

- A basket or box
- A picnic blanket
- A selection of books
- Teddies and sensory bottles (optional)



## SCHOOL LIBRARIES MINI-SERIES



Thanks to everyone who followed along last month for my libraries mini-series.

Do check it out if it is something you are looking to develop.

Please get in touch if you want any more support.

I can offer a variety of in person and online CPD ~ 1:1, staff meetings, inset

Just drop me an email at [theprimarybookbox@outlook.com](mailto:theprimarybookbox@outlook.com)

## COMING UP ~ JULY

The July issue will be all about transition and will feature reading activities you can try with your new class to build community.

If you're looking for ideas, check out my back to school resources that are perfect for meeting your new class.

[Link Here](#)

