



# BOOK BOX BITES

October '23 Newsletter: Vol 13

## MRS BROWN'S SPOOKBOX EDITION!

It's spooky season! And that means it's nearly half term!

So, along with the usual recommendations and research snippets, I've added a couple of resources that will hopefully keep children engaged in reading over half term or could be a great end of term activity for a library session.

My **MUST READ** from this month is **The Final Year**, a verse novel by Matt Goodfellow. I believe every teacher should read it and Year 6. It is powerful, poignant, heartbreaking and hopeful. It has links with Skellig too so if this is a text you study, I recommend it even more.

Esther x

## Useful Dates coming up October

3rd - dyslexia awareness week  
4th - 10th - Space Week  
10th - World Mental Health Day  
31st - Halloween

## November

5th - Bonfire night  
11th - Armistice Day  
13th - Diwali  
13th - Anti-Bullying Week  
13th - Nursery Rhyme Week



MUST  
READ



## READING FOR PLEASURE ~ RESEARCH

**Reading Fluency** - the DfE Reading Framework places an emphasis on fluency and prosody and there's lots of research to show why.

**Over 30 years of research indicates that fluency is one of the critical building blocks of reading, because fluency development is directly related to comprehension.**

The results of one study by Fuchs, Fuchs, Hosp, and Jenkins show that oral reading fluency correlates more highly with reading comprehension than Oral Recall/Retelling, Cloze (fill in the blank) or Question Answering.

And it makes sense, the more fluent you are, the more likely you are to gain meaning from the text.

Here's two ways you can help support fluency development:

- Teacher modelling
- Repeated reading of a passage
- Read more [here](#)

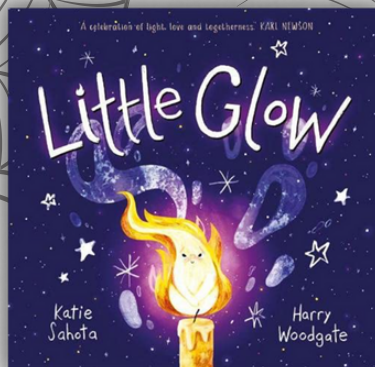




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## READING RECOMMENDATIONS ~ A FOCUS ON FESTIVALS



I can't recommend **Little Glow** enough for this time of year. It celebrates festivals of light: Halloween, Bonfire night, Diwali, Chanukah, Christmas, Lunar New Year

A brilliant, inclusive book for classroom shelves. **The Best Diwali Ever** comes highly recommended from me too.



From my Halloween shelves, this trio come highly recommended, combining emotional literacy and gorgeous Mexican inspired Day of the Dead style illustrations.



For older readers, Joseph Coelho's Fairytale gone bad series of verse novels are fantastic and for Upper KS2 who love horror, Jenifer Killick is very popular. This is her latest - a collection of short stories.

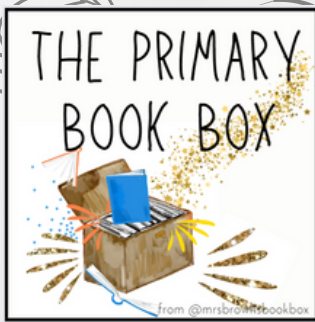


If you're looking for a teaching text for KS2, I highly recommend this reimagining of a Tyrolean Folk Tale. Weird and wonderfully dark, it would make an incredible stimulus for both writing and art work. There's inspiration for setting descriptions, creating a back story, rehearsing speech conventions and so much more.

**Read it first thought to check it is suitable for your class.**







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## CREATING READING SCHOOLS



3 SIMPLE jobs for your Reading Ambassadors this month

1. Create a themed shelf e.g. Halloween, Wellbeing, Poetry, Black History Month
2. Create a simple activity for people to put in the library e.g. bookmarks to colour in.
3. Create a reading recommendations wall in the library or in classrooms.

Creating reading teachers with knowledge of children's literature is a key element of Teresa Cremin's research and is featured in the DfE Reading Framework.

One idea is to create a staff room book box for teachers to borrow or browse.



Keep children reading over the half term holiday with an autumn book bingo or a spooky bookish scavenger hunt. Both are attached for you.



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## AUTUMN TERM - BOOK BINGO

Can you read...?

A book with an autumnal cover

A book that helps you learn about Black History

A story set in autumn

An information book

A magical story or fairy folk tale

A book that makes you feel cosy

An autumnal poem

A spooky story

A recipe and create a seasonal treat

Things to think about...  
Which text type did you enjoy the most? Why was this?

Did any text types surprise you?  
Could you learn part of the poem you chose by heart?







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Find a book with a spooky cover

Find a book with a cat

Find a book with a spell (or recipe) in

Find a book with a witch in it

Find a book set at night

Find a book the colour of a pumpkin

Find a book that would comfort you if you were scared

Find the oldest book you can (it might be dusty!)

Set your own challenge here for someone else.