



Parkgate Juniors Reading News

January 2024 / # 15

Year 6 Library Visits

6 Falcon and 6 Eagle had an amazing time visiting North Watford Library before Christmas.



We particularly enjoyed the challenge

that the library staff set us—looking at different genres and authors.

There was a real buzz about the visit, with children chatting

about what they enjoyed (and didn't enjoy!) reading.

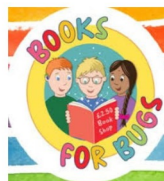


Thank you to the fantastic staff at the library for the fun, informative and engaging visits, and to the parents who kindly walked with us and enabled the visits to happen.

Welcome!

Virtual Book Fair

Thank you to those who supported our latest Books for Bugs virtual book fair. We hope you enjoyed your purchases!



You can still shop with Books for Bugs for discounted books even though the fair has finished.

www.booksforbugs.co.uk

Drop-Ins...

Please note that our family library drop-ins aren't running at present.



We're looking at different ways of involving our children and families in the library and with reading for pleasure, so if you have any suggestions, please feel free to email Mrs Parr at

library@parkgatejm.herts.sch.uk



Pupil Library Assistants News

Our fabulous pupil library assistants have been busy learning on the job this term and have achieved their Bronze Level—congratulations to them.



They also helped clear up our outside reading nook, which had become quite messy.



Finally, we celebrated the end of a busy term with a fun Christmas party!

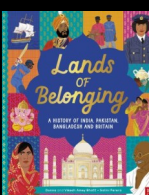
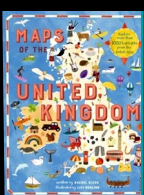
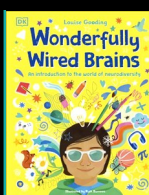
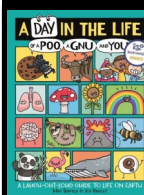


Book Recommendations Information

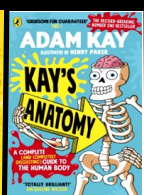
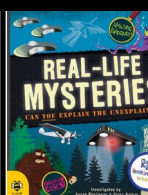
Please note: Information for our book recommendations is taken mostly from Book Trust and Peter's Books.



Great Reads : Non-Fiction



- A Day in the Life of a Poo, a Gnu and You
- Wonderfully Wired Brains
- Maps of the United Kingdom
- Lands of Belonging
- Real-Life Mysteries
- The Secret Life of Bees
- Kay's Anatomy



Poetry? by Karl Nova

When I was a kid
poetry seemed boring
complex words on a page
that almost left me snoring
I felt no connection
the language seemed foreign
if it fought for my attention
it was pointless warring
I was introduced to texts
held in high esteem
I did recognise the genius
but they meant nothing to me
all that changed
when I heard an M.C.
speak a poetic language
that really hit deep
it's like I woke up
from being fast asleep
everything seemed to slow down
I felt my soul leap
I was amazed
how his words transformed him
from being a skinny geek
into someone enormous
He gained energy
as he kept performing
Something was awakened in me
that was dormant
it deeply moved me
to pick up a pen
and put down lines of my own
lots of gems
I discovered, buried deep in my soul
I dug deeper
struck oil and found gold
now I share all these riches
that I've found
communicating feelings and thoughts
through sound
now that's poetry I'm glad
that I've found
the kind that speaks to me
right here and right now.



Watch Karl perform this poem here:
<https://clipe.org.uk/videos/video/karl-nova-poetry>

Illustrator Spotlight

David Litchfield

Davis is a multi-award winning illustrator and author. He first started to draw when he was very young, creating Star Wars and Indiana Jones 'mash up' comics for his older brother and sister. Since then David's work has appeared in magazines, newspapers and books. He is the author/illustrator of several picture books, including 'The Bear & The Piano', 'Lights On Cotton Rock' and 'Grandad's Secret'. David has also illustrated a number of picture books and novels, as well as lots of book covers. He lives with his family in Bedford, England.

www.davidlitchfieldillustration.com/



Top Website

Scottish Book Trust



"We are a national charity that believes books, reading and writing have the power to change lives. A love of reading inspires creativity, improves employment opportunities, mental health and wellbeing and is one of the most effective ways to help break the poverty cycle."

On their website you'll find amazing resources: Find Your Next Read: Reading and Stories; Writing and Authors: Book of the Month: Bookbug Story Library; Sharing Stories; Home Activities; Authors Live—and so much more!

www.scottishbooktrust.com/

Author Spotlight

Atinuke

Atinuke was born and grew up in Nigeria but now lives in Wales. In her books, she shares with children all over the world how modern life is in Africa, how amazing African traditions and cultures are, and how our human joys and sorrows are the same. Her books have been published in the UK, USA, France and Japan and have won lots of awards.

<https://atinuke.co.uk/>



Picture Book

Lights on Cotton Rock

Author & Illustrator:

David Litchfield

Age: 5+

A little girl dreams of being taken away in a spaceship.



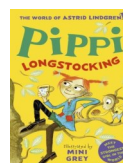
A Classic Read

Pippi Longstocking

Author: Astrid Lindgren

Age: 7+

Pippi Longstocking is nine years old. She has just moved into Villa Villekulla where she lives all by herself with a horse, a monkey, and a big suitcase full of gold coins. The grown-ups in the village try to make Pippi behave in ways that they think a little girl should, but Pippi has other ideas...

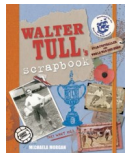


Top Non-Fiction

Walter Tull's Scrapbook

Author: Michaela Morgan

Age: 8+



Born in Kent, Walter Tull (28 April 1888 - 25 March 1918) became one of Tottenham Hotspurs' top players. When he joined the Footballers' Battalion during the First World War, his leadership and courage won him a commission and a recommendation for the Military Cross. But Walter wasn't just a great footballer and British officer. He happened to be black, at a time when the rule book stated that only white men could become officers.



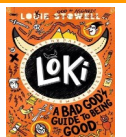
In personal jottings, photos and pictures, this scrapbook brings alive a man who lived outside the limitations of his age—from Walter's childhood in an orphanage through his footballing years at Spurs and Northampton to the Western Front, highlighting the Christmas Day Truce of 1914, Walter's officer training - pipe, moustache and all! - ending with his death on the Somme, his memorials and his legacy.

Top Book (Y5&6)

Loki

Author: Louie Stowell

Age: 9+



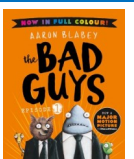
Wry, witty and very funny diary-style story packed with doodles and comic strips about the frustration trickster god Loki feels at having to live trapped in the body of a weedy eleven-year-old boy. After one trick too many, Loki is banished to live on Earth as a "normal" school boy. Forbidden from using his AWESOME godly powers, Loki must show moral improvement. It soon becomes clear that Loki hasn't a clue how to tell good from evil, trust from tricks, or friends from enemies.

Top Book (Y3&4)

Bad Guys

Author: Aaron Blabey

Age: 7+



They sound like the Bad Guys, they look like the Bad Guys... and they even smell like the Bad Guys.

But Mr Wolf, Mr Piranha, Mr Snake and Mr Shark are about to change all of that ...

Pupils — Share Your Recommendations!

Writing book reviews helps other readers decide if they want to read the book for themselves.



Why not share a review of a book you've recently read and tell others what you thought of it?

What to do with your reviews:

1. You can email your reviews to:

library@parkgatejm.herts.sch.uk

or

2. Leave a review in google classroom

or

3. Write a review or give stars out of 5 (5 being fantastic!) on a sticky note and put it up in your classroom reading area or the library.

or

4. Log on to Librosoft library system and add your review there. Login details are on the wall by the library computers.

We will add some of the reviews here in Reading News and display the rest in the library and in your classroom.

Reviews can include the following information:

- Title
- Author
- Illustrator (if any)
- Is it Fiction, Non-Fiction, Picture Book, Poetry, Graphic Novel, etc?
- Recommended age
- Brief summary of the book (but not giving away any spoilers or endings!)
- Main character(s)
- Strengths and weaknesses of the book
- A rating (sometimes stars) or recommendation.

Think about...

- The language and vocabulary used.
- If there are illustrations or photos, what are they like and how do they complement the book?
- What type of genre or subject is it about (humour, mysteries, animals, etc)?

Contact Us

Problems or questions about your library books? Want advice about reading choices?

Don't forget you can email or send a message in google classroom to our librarian, Mrs Parr and she will get back to you as soon as possible (she works Mondays and Tuesdays).

Email is library@parkgatejm.herts.sch.uk



What to Read Next?

If you're stuck on what to read next, there are a few of options for you:



- ⇒ Ask Mrs Parr or your teacher for some suggestions.
- ⇒ Have a look at the red Reading Suggestions file by the library computers
- ⇒ Complete the online form on the library web pages.
- ⇒ Again on the library web pages, there is a section on What to Read Next— have a look there.
- ⇒ Ask friends, family, librarians in public libraries and bookshop staff (children's section) what they recommend.
- ⇒ Have a look at our suggested reading lists. You'll find these on the library wall beside the computers, on the library webpages and on google classroom.

Also check these great websites:

- <https://www.thereaderteacher.com/bookmatch>
- <https://www.booksfortopics.com/branching-out>
- <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/our-recommendations/>

Autism Friendly Hour

Autism friendly hour

- ◆ North Watford Library
- ◆ Every Saturday 9.30-10.30am



Between these times they will:

- Dim the lighting
- Have priority queuing for those with autism and their carers
- Hold no other events at this time

The library is open to everyone as normal during this time.

Your Favourites?

If you would like to recommend a favourite book, author, illustrator, magazine or reading website, just email us at

library@parkgatejm.herts.sch.uk



Our Library Website

Plenty of information here about book-related things plus so many fun reading and drawing activities...



...writing and drawing tips from fabulous authors and illustrators, videos of them drawing or reading aloud from their books, games, ebooks, puzzles, quizzes, book reviews, information about particular books, authors and illustrators and so much more.

There is also useful information for parents and staff in their own section on our webpages.

<https://www.parkgatejm.herts.sch.uk/library/>

Librosoft Library Catalogue

Check out our library catalogue, Librosoft. Log in to see what books you have out, renew them or write book reviews.



Discover what books we have, so you have a few titles in mind when you come to borrow in the library.

Login details are on the wall by the library computers.

<https://www.parkgatejm.herts.sch.uk/library/>

Herts Libraries

Don't forget to use our excellent public libraries which are free to use and to borrow from. Our nearest one is right next to Asda.



Use your library card to borrow books, use the computers and use online services such as ebooks, audiobooks, comics, magazines, newspapers and reference information.

If you're not a member, it's free and easy to join.

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/>

We love reading!

Some new books in our library...

dyslexia-friendly

