



# Parkgate Juniors Reading News

November 2024 / # 17

## Sp/Book Sale



Thank you so much to all who came to our latest ever-popular second-hand books sale. More than **200 books** went home with happy children - fantastic!



A big thank you to our Pupil Library Assistants, Miss Osborne and Mrs Parr, who all did a magnificent job running the sale.

## Welcome!

### Reading Challenge

Before the summer, the librarians from North Watford Library visited us for a whole school assembly, telling us all about the Summer Reading Challenge.



Congratulations to all who completed the challenge. Those children received a school certificate and a small reward in recognition of their achievements.

## New Pupil Library Assistants

Thank you to all who applied for the much sought-after posts of Pupil Library Assistants. We had a large number of applications (amazing!) but sadly a limited number of places.



Congratulations to Ioli, Charlie, Anoushka, Aanya, Thea and Sophie. They will be working with Mrs Parr, our librarian, to learn new skills and help keep the library in tip-top condition!

## Pupil Librarians Vote!

Thank you to our lovely Library Assistants from last year who took part in the national School Library Association Information Book Awards (Children's Choice). They read the shortlisted titles for ages 9-12 category and we came together to vote for their overall chosen title. Let's see if we voted for the winner, which will be announced on 28th November.



## 'Fabulous Fables' After-School Event

**Fabulous Fables & Mystical Dragons**

Join us for some fantasy, fables and delicious dragon fun in the library.

Listen to a magical story, join our super writing session, enjoy some crafts and have a look at our fabulous fantasy books.

**Monday 9th December**  
**3.20-4.20pm, upstairs in the library**

We only have space for 20 children, although parents are welcome to join their child.

First come, first served basis.

To book a space, please complete the Microsoft online form found in the body of the email sent out.

## Farewell...

Before the summer holidays we said farewell to our Library Assistants for the year. They were a lovely bunch to work



with and learned loads of new skills. On our last session, we enjoyed a special tea party and gift to thank them for all their hard work.

## Great Reads : Dragons



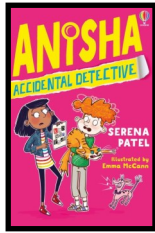
Billy and the Dragon—Nadia Shireen  
The Dragon Machine—Helen Ward  
Tell Me a Dragon—Jackie Morris  
The Boy Who Grew Dragons—Andy Shepherd  
The Land of Roar—Jenny McLachlan  
Dragonology—Dugald A. Steer  
Eragon—Christopher Paolini



## Top Book (Y3&4)

### Anisha Accidental Detective

**Author:** Serena Patel  
**Age:** 7+



Help! My super-dramatic Aunt Bindi is getting married tomorrow and she's having a mega meltdown. But ssssh! I've just found a ransom note, pushed through the letter box, saying Uncle Tony, Bindi's husband-to-be, has been kidnapped, and will only be freed if the wedding is cancelled!

I have to keep this a secret otherwise it'll be panic-central. I guess it's up to me - Anisha, accidental detective, to save the day.

An amusing tale about the trauma of getting to know your new family, with characters you really get to know and like.

## Top Website



### Poetry Roundabout

*Liz Brownlee Poet's Pages of Children's Poetry and More!*

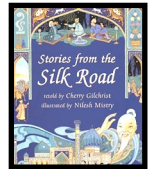
What's on the poetry roundabout? Quickie children's poetry writing ideas for children, teachers, parents and librarians, and poetry craft! And of course, poetry shapes, poetry book reviews, poet interviews, shape poems, poem videos and performances by Liz and a variety of the best children's poets. There is also a list of children's poets working in the UK and US.

<https://poetryroundabout.com/>

## Top Non-Fiction

### Stories from the Silk Road

**Author:** Cherry Gilchrist  
**Age:** 7+



An illustrated collection of seven traditional stories from Asia. Let the spirit of the Silk Road be your guide as you travel from Chang'an to Samark and along one of the most ancient and exotic trade routes of the world.

## Top Author

### Emma Carroll



From a very early age, Emma dreamed of being an author. She was a secondary school English teacher for many years before becoming a full time writer. Her stories are usually historical, often spooky, and always led by a cast of impressive female characters. Books include Frost Hollow Hall, Secrets of a Sun King and so many more.

[emmacarrollauthor.wordpress.com/](http://emmacarrollauthor.wordpress.com/)

## Top Book (Y5&6)

### The Highland Falcon Thief

**Author:** MG Leonard & Sam Sedgman  
**Age:** 9+



Harrison Beck is reluctantly joining his travel-writer Uncle Nate for the last journey of the royal train, The Highland Falcon. But as the train makes its way to Scotland, a priceless brooch goes missing, and things are suddenly a lot more interesting. Suspensions, accusations, surprises—can Harrison solve the mystery of the jewel thief and catch the culprit before they reach the end of the line? Cracking adventure merging Agatha Christie style crime with Enid Blyton style mystery!

## Top Poem

### The Colour Collector

A stranger called this morning  
Dressed all in **black** and **grey**  
Put every colour into a bag  
And carried them away

The **goldenness** of cornflakes,  
The ivory of milk  
The **silverness** of soup spoons,  
The see-throughness of silk

The **greenness** of tennis courts  
When play has just begun  
The **orangeness** of oranges  
Glowing in the sun

The **blueness** of a dolphin  
Nosing through the sea  
The **redness** of the breast,  
The **yellowy** blur of a bee

The **creaminess** of polar bears  
Sliding on the floes  
The little piggy **pinkness**  
Of tiny tickly toes

The sky that smiled a **rainbow**  
Now wears a leaden frown  
Who's sobbing in the circus tent?  
Wizzo the **monochrome** clown

A stranger called this morning  
He didn't leave his name  
We live now in the shadows  
Life will never be the same

© Roger McGough



## Top Illustrator

### Sara Ogilvie



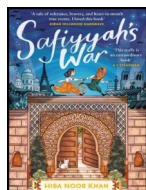
Sara Ogilvie creates award-winning art which has been exhibited across the UK and abroad. She is the illustrator of many books including *The Boy Who Grew Dragons*, *Do Not Enter the Monster Zoo* — and many more!

[www.saraogilvie.com](http://www.saraogilvie.com)

## Mrs Parr's Current Fave

### Safiyyah's War

**Author:** Hiba Noor Khan  
**Age:** 9+



Compelling WWII adventure based on real events, focussing on the experiences, courage and resilience of a small group of individuals. This is a fascinating and moving story of hundreds of Jews being led to safety through the underground passages from the Grand Mosque.

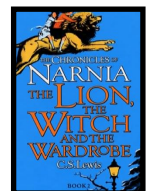
**Top Picture Book is...**  
**Voices in the Park**  
by Anthony Browne



## A Classic Read

### The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe

**Author:** C.S. Lewis  
**Age:** 8+



The classic story about four children in a fantasy world they found through a magical wardrobe.

Lucy has stumbled upon a marvellous land of fauns and centaurs, nymphs and talking animals. But she soon discovers that it is ruled by the cruel White Witch, and she can only be freed by Aslan, the great Lion, and four children.



## 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](mailto: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 usually 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](mailto: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, teachers, 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/>

## Family Library Drop-Ins

Join us again for our lovely family library drop-ins.

All welcome — children siblings, parents/ carers, grandparents, aunts, uncles... everyone invited! We also have a small selection of books for adults to borrow.

**Browse, borrow, read, relax.**

**Every Monday after school.**



## 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](mailto: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

