

The Big Read

May 2022



A huge congratulations to Elisa on her wonderful performance poetry at the Story House in Chester. She wrote and delivered a poem about the plight of the refugees in Ukraine. She showed courage, respect and empathy both in her writing and delivery of her poem.

Well done Elisa, we are incredibly proud of you!

As this week is mental health week, we thought it would be a great opportunity to share some books that may help reduce any worries you have.

Studies have shown that reading as little as 6 minutes per day can improve your quality of sleep, reduce stress, and sharpen mental acuity. Reading strengthens the neural circuits and pathways of our brain while lowering heart rate and blood pressure.

Benefits of reading for pleasure



based upon the findings reported in
Literature Review: The Impact of Reading for
Pleasure and Empowerment, The Reading
Agency, 2015

PERSONAL OUTCOMES

Escapism
Enjoyment
Focus and Flow
Knowledge of self
Creativity and imagination
Relaxation
Emotional Intelligence

SOCIAL OUTCOMES

Empathy
Relatedness
Parent/child communication
Reduced depressive symptoms
Self expression
Communication skills
Social and cultural capital

EXTERNAL OUTCOMES

Attainment (across curriculum)
Knowledge of other cultures
Motivation to learn

SVP May readers:

Nursery: Arlo for always giving wonderful on the books he has read.

Reception: Anthony because he is so enthusiastic and enjoys reading books that help him find out about the world.

Year 1: Faria for reading at home every night! You are showing real dedication.

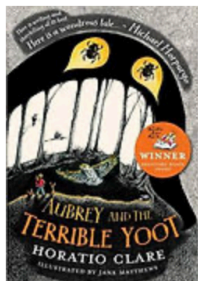
Year 2: Kai for making wonderful progress in his reading. Miss Bow cannot believe how much progress you have made.

Year 3: Paris for improving her Reading Plus usage. We can see a big improvement!

Year 4: Lucas for trying his very best to read 10 pages a day.

Year 5: Louis for his wonderful book recommendations on SeeSaw and encouraging his peers to read.

Year 6: All of Year 6 for working exceptionally hard to use their Reading Plus app to prepare them for their recent SAT exam.



Aubrey and the Terrible Yoot

Horatio Clare

Nominated by: Simon Fisher (@lamerch/@bookwormswales), teacher and blogger at familybookworms.wales

"A brilliant book, the first in a series, published by Firefly Press in 2017. The compelling title features Aubrey, a "rambunctious child", an adventurer and determined discoverer. 'The Terrible Yoot' refers to dad's depression; he becomes sad, pale, confused and rather lost – "Sometimes he seemed so wispy he might have been made of mist." Horatio Clare writes openly and honestly about Jim's battles and Aubrey's responses to what he witnesses. There is plenty of humour, plenty of adventure and some remarkably adept description. All in all, a very grounded and relatable story."

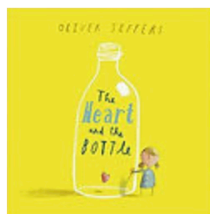


All The Things that Could Go Wrong

Stewart Foster

Nominated by: Justine Laismith (@justinelaismith), Children's Author

"Some books you read a few pages or some chapters and park it for the day. Other books, you get so into the story that you just keep turning the pages and lose track of time. This book is the latter. This is about a bully and his victim (who also suffers from OCD) and their points of view on their respective lives at school. I really enjoyed it. It was at a very good pace and you get a good sense of school and home life of both characters. It's so well written that both bully and his victim got under my skin."



The Heart and the Bottle

Oliver Jeffers

Nominated by: KS1 teacher Sarah Pertzel (@PertzelSarah) and Y4 teacher Jane Evans.

Sarah says: "This book touches on depression and loss but also looks at the power of imagination and love. It sparked great conversations of loss and sadness with my Year 2 class."

Jane says: "A wonderful soulful story capturing a little girl's loss and path through bereavement, complimented by beautiful illustrations. One to be shared while being mindful of those who may have experienced similar loss and who are perhaps struggling to talk about it or see any light afterwards."