

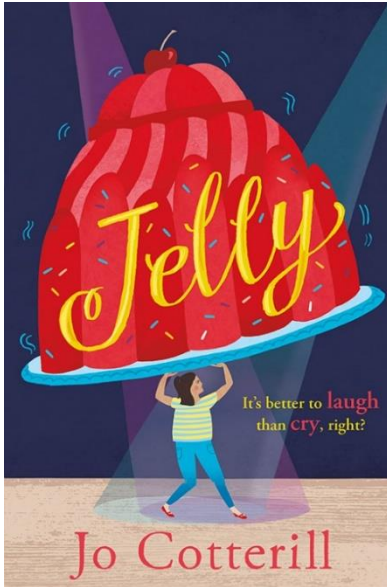
KINGSHILL READS



CIRENCESTER
KINGSHILL
SCHOOL

Welcome to the second edition of **KINGSHILL READS**, our termly newsletter of reading recommendations to make sure you're never stuck for a book! As always, any member of staff at school would love to hear about what you are reading at the moment, and if you have any suggestions for books to feature in future editions of KINGSHILL READS, just let a member of the English Department know!

BOOK OF THE TERM



Jelly by Jo Cotterill

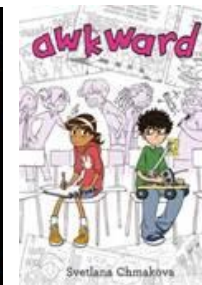
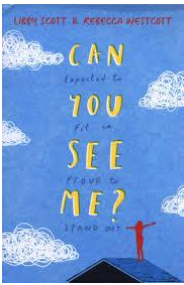
Suitable for: Years 7 – 9

Last term we featured *Onyeka and the Academy of the Sun* by Tola Ogunwole, as we were fortunate enough to have a visit from the author in May. We are in the incredibly privileged position to have yet another author visit us at Kingshill this term, courtesy of our friends at the charity Read for Good. So, our guest this term will be **Jo Cotterill**, author of the brilliant *Electrigril* series, but also the writer of this wonderful, empowering book about body image and self-confidence, *Jelly*.

The main character, Angelica – Jelly for short – is a 12-year-old who is known at school for being full of fun and laughter and energy, but who is actually incredibly nervous, anxious and riddled with insecurities. When Jelly's Mum's new boyfriend, Lennon, is the first to notice that Jelly is hiding her insecurities behind her larger than life persona, he encourages her to let the world see her for who she truly is and to have the confidence to believe in herself enough to take part in the forthcoming school talent show.

Mr Smith, Head of English

IF YOU LIKE JELLY, TRY THESE...



STUDENT RECOMMENDATION 1

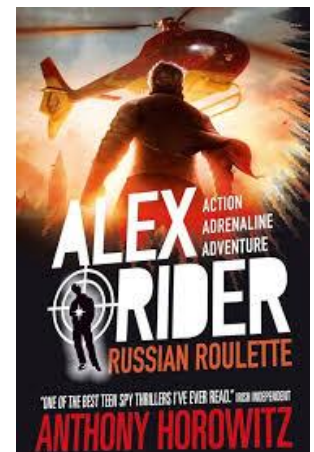
Russian Roulette by Anthony Horowitz

Suitable for Years 7 – 11

This book is an addition to the Alex Rider series. I especially enjoyed this book due to the constant intense action and descriptive language that creates a clear, visual idea of what is happening. The book is a great read if you like adventurous and thrilling stories. The characters play a significant role in making the story take unexpected twists due to their unique, fearless personalities.

The final twenty pages are my favourite part of the book. The suspense is built up throughout the book as you go towards a final, fast-paced end. This series is suitable for anyone who likes lots of action and likeable characters and is similar to *The Bodyguard* series by Chris Bradford.

Robert Stickney, 8A



SCHOOL PRODUCTION

Excitement is building for our summer production, which promises to be absolutely spectacular! To celebrate the forthcoming show, our **Head of Drama, Ms Stones**, takes us back to Roald Dahl's remarkable and magical novel.

Matilda by Roald Dahl

Suitable for: Years 7 - 11

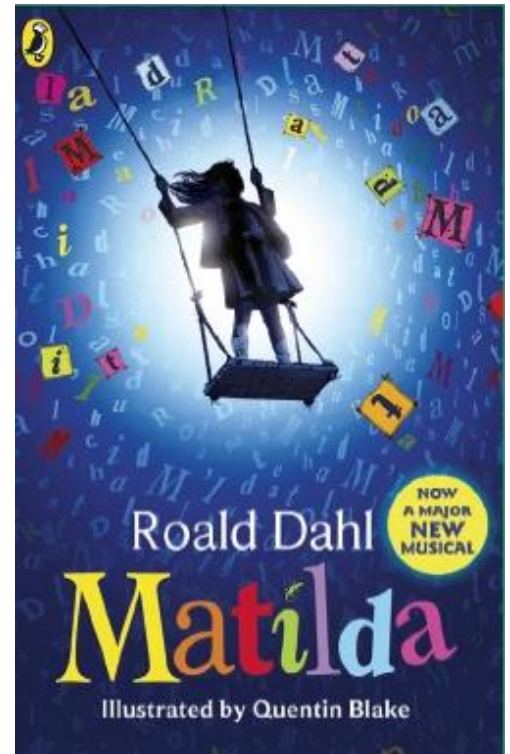
Matilda is the book that reminds me of the joy we all can find in reading. I loved reading it as a child and when it came out as a musical, with Tim Minchin writing the script and composing the music, I knew it would make a fabulous school production.

Matilda is an exceptional young person, but her parents think she's just a nuisance. They wanted a boy, but she's a girl. They are nasty, but she is honest. But most terribly, they want to watch TV whilst she wants to read! Matilda loves the power of stories, of words and of imagination. She knows that she is free to go anywhere and everywhere - if only in her mind.

Eventually she goes to school, but there she has to face Miss Trunchbull, a kid-hating terror of a headmistress. When Matilda stands up to the Trunchbull she suddenly discovers she has a remarkable power with which to fight back. Her power is the power to make things happen with her mind - she makes things happen with the power of her imagination. Matilda the novel doesn't sugar-coat the dark and difficult trials one may face in life, but simultaneously teaches us to endure the tough times. Matilda meets Miss Honey - a teacher I hope everyone has had at least once in their lives. In Miss Honey's class she is nurtured and believed in and we see her remarkable mind blossom.

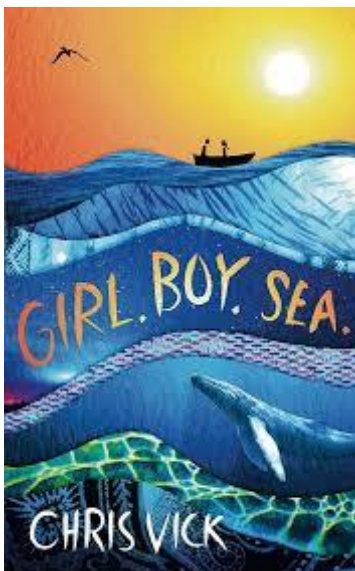
The story also displays how clever children are. Though they are small, one should never underestimate their intelligence. I hope the Kingshill School Production manages to capture the power and magic of imagination. It's a wonderful story and a wonderful read.

Ms Stones, Head of Drama



GUEST RECOMMENDATION

Each term we ask someone from outside our immediate school community, but with a passion for children's literature, to recommend a book they feel you might enjoy. This term, **Carole Estall**, experienced teacher, librarian, YA fiction expert and the brains behind The Reading Jackdaw – a website dedicated to reading for pleasure – has kindly offered a review of Chris Vicks's book *Girl. Boy. Sea.* which also happens to be on our New Chapters reading list for Year 9!



Girl. Boy. Sea. by Chris Vicks

Suitable for Years 8 - 10

This book grabs you from the get-go and the short sharp prose packs a punch in its simplicity and devastation. Then, before you know it, you are with Bill floating on an endless expanse of ocean with everything that makes him human stripped away, lost in a world where only survival matters.

When Bill rescues Aya everything changes and the story becomes about more than just survival as a relationship develops that is key to everything that makes this story so rich. As they find ways to communicate, trust grows and Aya's stories fill the endless hours as she begins to reveal a little of herself.

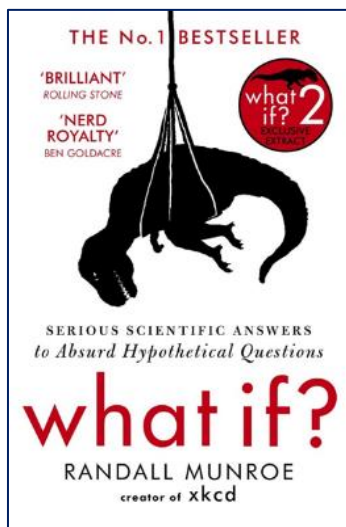
Clever writing and storytelling throw you around on stormy waves as Bill and Aya grow closer through sinister turns and the danger, wonder, despair and even hope of the vast ocean. We hear Aya's true story as we enter the breath-taking and emotional finale leaving us with a heart full of possibilities.

Carole Estall

<https://www.readingjackdaw.co.uk/>

SUBJECT SPOTLIGHT

At Kingshill, reading is not just for English lessons, so each term a member of staff from a different department will recommend a book they think you might enjoy and that will enhance your understanding of their subject. Our second SUBJECT SPOTLIGHT recommendation comes from our **Head of Science, Mrs Pearson**. She loves science AND reading so much that she couldn't resist making two recommendations!



What If? by Randall Munroe

Suitable for Year 7 – 11

I have always enjoyed finding out the answers to puzzling questions. I love this book as you can dip in and out of it or read it in one go if you wish. Each chapter is based around questions Randall Munroe has been sent through his website. He produces a stick figure webcomic on line ([xkcd: Cell Organelles](http://xkcd.com) which is also great) and this has created a platform for followers who want him to find out the 'why and how' of interesting simple questions like 'How many Lego bricks would it take to build a bridge capable of carrying traffic from London to New York?'.

For those who know me they will not be surprised to find out my favourite chapter was 'What would happen if you made a periodic table out of cube shaped bricks where each brick was made of the corresponding element?'. Sadly, the answer is that although collecting things is fun, when it comes to chemical elements you do not want to collect them all, but at least I now fully understand why!

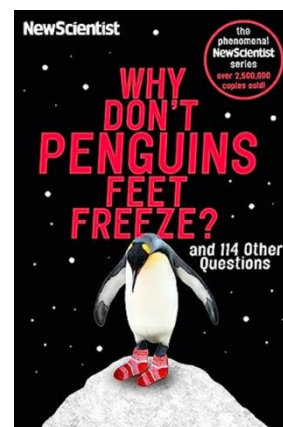
Why Don't Penguins Feet Freeze?

Suitable for Years 7 – 9

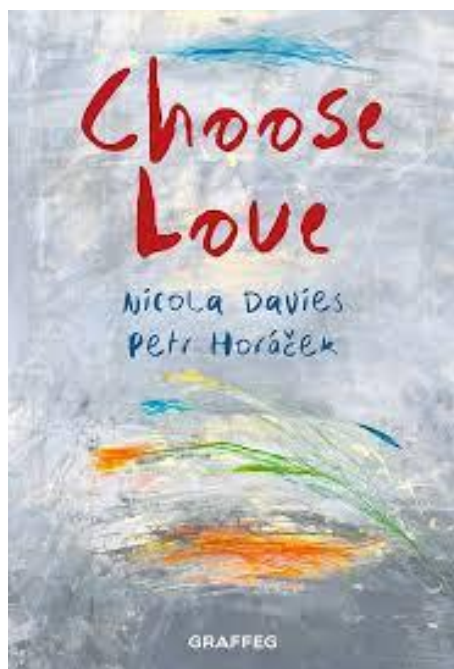
For easier questions another similar book that may suit younger readers is one of three produced by the New Scientist.

Ever wondered why penguins' feet freeze don't freeze on the ice? Or whether bumblebees really defy the laws of physics when they fly? Why are dogs' noses black? Why doesn't superglue stick to the inside of its tube? This book gives the answers to some of these fun questions and really encourages you to think around the science.

Mrs Pearson, Head of Science



FROM THE LIBRARY



Choose Love by Nicola Davies

Suitable for Years 7 – 11

This collection of poems by Nicola Davies – recently nominated for the Yoto Carnegie Medal - tells us how it feels to be a refugee seeking safety and security in a new country. Feelings of indignity and loneliness, fear and anxiety, hope and loss.

Split across three parts: departure, arrival and healing, the poems within each section correspond to the thoughts and emotions surrounding each section of a refugee's journey.

This book helped me feel, think and act towards people not like myself. It reminded me that we all come from different backgrounds and are dealing with different situations that are invisible to the people around us.

Choose Love is part of the recommended reading for Empathy Day on 6th of June and is available to borrow in the Library.

Mrs Hughes, Librarian

NEW CHAPTERS

Each edition of KINGSHILL READS will showcase some of the books you are enjoying with your tutors twice a week as part of our **NEW CHAPTERS** reading programme.



***Cinderella is Dead* by Kalynn Bayron** (Year 9 New Chapters book)
Suitable for Years 9 – 11

It's 200 years after Cinderella found her prince, but the fairy tale is over. Teen girls are now required to appear at the Annual Ball, where the men of the kingdom select wives based on a girl's display of finery. If a suitable match is not found, the girls not chosen are never heard from again.

Sixteen-year-old Sophia would much rather marry Erin, her childhood best friend, than parade in front of suitors. At the ball, Sophia makes the desperate decision to flee, and finds herself hiding in Cinderella's mausoleum. There, she meets Constance, the last known descendant of Cinderella and her step sisters.

Together they vow to bring down the king once and for all – and in the process, they learn that there's more to Cinderella's story than they ever knew . . .

<https://www.kalynnbayron.com/pre>

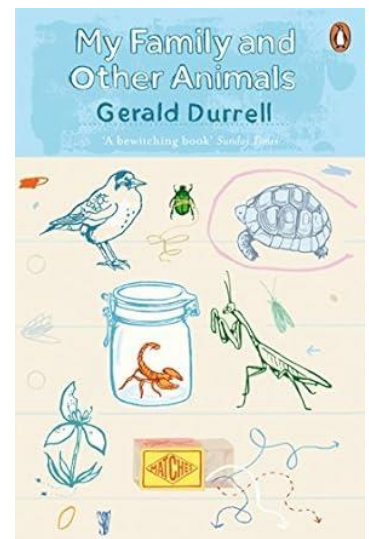
STUDENT RECOMMENDATION 2

***My Family and Other Animals* by Gerald Durrell**
Suitable for Years 8 – 11

This is an amazing book about Gerald Durrell (famous naturalist and the founder of Jersey Zoo) and his life growing up. He was born in England and one day his mother moved him and his family, including gun-mad Leslie, kind Margo, Larry the writer and Roger the dog to the Greek island of Corfu. There they meet a wonderful taxi driver called Spiros who helps them with everything - from finding a house, to day to day travel - and he becomes a loyal friend to the Durrell family.

Gerald explores the island observing its fascinating array of wildlife and you can really see the world through his eyes and understand his passion for the animals which he collects and stores in a variety of places across his house, much to his family's despair. I would definitely recommend this book to anyone!

Eliza Luffingham, 8A



AUTHOR VISIT – TOLA OKOGWU



It was our pleasure to welcome award-winning author and creator of the *Onyeka* series of books, **Tola Okogwu**, to Kingshill at the end of last term. She travelled all the way from Kent to see us for the day! She presented her books and discussed her journey as an author to all of Year 7 and Year 8, in addition to taking part in a Q&A with a smaller group of students in the library.

In the afternoon, we welcomed children from four of our local primary schools to Kingshill and Tola delivered an empowering and hilarious session with them about superheroes, powers and the strength we can all find within ourselves. It was a fantastic day that saw our guest being mobbed by students at break and lunch-time wanting to ask her questions about her books and her characters and her experiences as a writer.

All three of the *Onyeka* books can be found in the library or the English Department. If you would like to read them, please just ask!

READATHON



In March, Year 8 took part in the **READ FOR GOOD** Reading Marathon, raising money to buy books for children who are having to spend time in hospital. The distance of a marathon race is 26.2 miles, so our students were challenged to **read for 26.2 hours** in the month of March.

Year 8 students raised over £225 – a fantastic effort and one that was really appreciated by the charity.

As a thank you, Read for Good sent certificates for all of our students who took part in the marathon and also two book vouchers for a prize draw.

BRILLIANT BOOKSHOP EXPERIENCE

We were privileged to host the Brilliant Bookshop Experience at the start of this term. This was a wonderful event run by Read for Good and National Book Tokens in partnership with the Yellow-Lighted Bookshop.

Every student in Years 7 - 9 was given a free £10 book token to spend on any book of their choice from an incredible selection provided in a pop-up bookshop in our school library.

Our students were so enthusiastic in making their choices and the staff from Read for Good and the bookshop repeatedly commented on how polite, respectful and well-behaved the students were across the two days.

It was great to see friends discussing their book choices, with some selecting the same book to read together and others selecting different books in a series so they could swap them over when finished.

This was such a special event, and we were proud to be selected to take part. We hope the books are enjoyed at home and that, for some, this could even be the spark that ignites a life-long love of reading.

In further good news from the event, all of the change from each book token has gone into funding new books for our school library.

So, at the end of the two days, Mrs Hughes had a wonderful time selecting nearly £500-worth of brand-new contemporary fiction for Kingshill students to enjoy in the coming months.

A huge thank you needs to go to Mrs Hughes for facilitating the bookshop in the library for two days, in addition to our friends at Read for Good and Hereward Corbett at the Yellow-Lighted Bookshop in Tetbury for his knowledge, expertise and enthusiasm when working with our students throughout this unique event.



BOOKISH THOUGHT FOR THE TERM...

'All the reading she had done had given her a view of life that they had never seen. If only they would read a little Dickens or Kipling they would soon discover there was more to life than cheating people and watching television.' — Roald Dahl, *Matilda*