

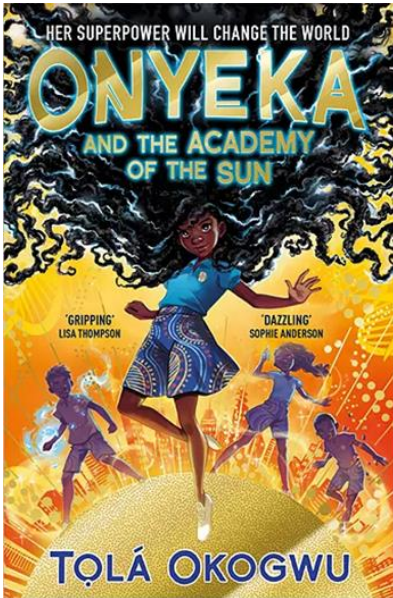
# KINGSHILL READS



CIRENCESTER  
KINGSHILL  
SCHOOL

Welcome to the first **KINGSHILL READS**, a brand new 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



*Onyeka and the Academy of the Sun* by Tola Okogwu

Suitable for: Years 7 – 9

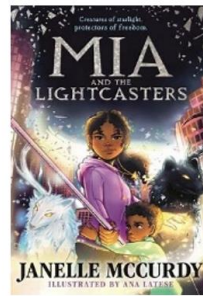
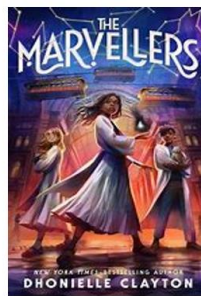
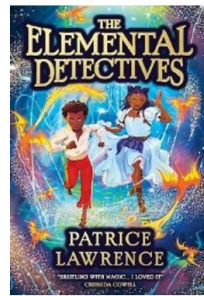
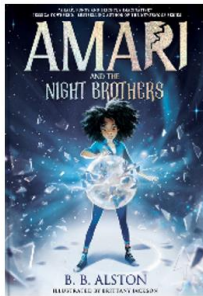
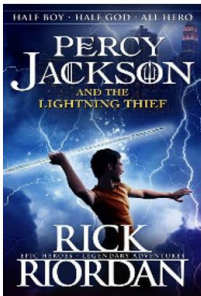
We are incredibly fortunate to have the wonderful author Tola Okogwu joining us in school for a day later this term, so for our inaugural **BOOK OF THE TERM** we thought it only right to select the first novel in her utterly brilliant superhero series, *Onyeka and the Academy of the Sun*.

Described as 'Black Panther meets Percy Jackson', this thrilling adventure follows Onyeka, a British-Nigerian girl who learns that her Afro hair has psychokinetic powers!

When she makes the important discovery that she can control this power, she's whisked off to the Academy of the Sun, a school in Nigeria where Solari – children with superpowers – are trained. And this is just the start of a wild, exciting and empowering adventure. Not a book to be missed, especially for any Marvel or DC fans!

*Mr Smith, Head of English*

## IF YOU LIKE ONYEKA, TRY THESE...



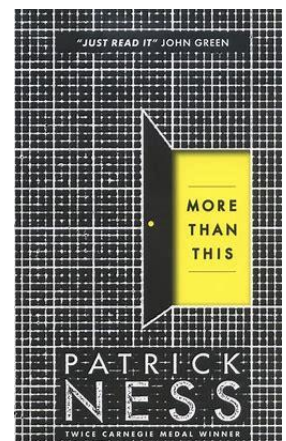
## STUDENT RECOMMENDATION

*More Than This* by Patrick Ness

Suitable for Years 9 – 11

This is a sci-fi thriller set in the childhood town of a teenage boy called Seth. It hooks you from the brilliant first line: "Here is the boy, drowning". From there it takes you on a captivating journey full of mystery and intrigue. Why did Seth die? What happened to Seth's younger brother Owen? And is Seth actually dead? All of these questions and more get answered throughout the book. The beginning of the book beautifully sets the scene as Seth is eerily all alone in his childhood town 'dead'... but he slowly meets people and uncovers the truth.

*William Fry, 10E*



## 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 first **SUBJECT SPOTLIGHT** recommendation comes from our Head of Humanities, Mr Rowe.

### *The Places In Between* by Rory Stewart

Suitable for: Years 9 – 11

In 2002, in the wake of 9/11, the Americans and their allies had overthrown the Taliban in Afghanistan. For the first time in decades it was possible for westerners to visit areas of the country that had been closed off by war. Rory Stewart decided to walk across the centre of Afghanistan relying on the hospitality of people who had not seen an outsider for a generation.

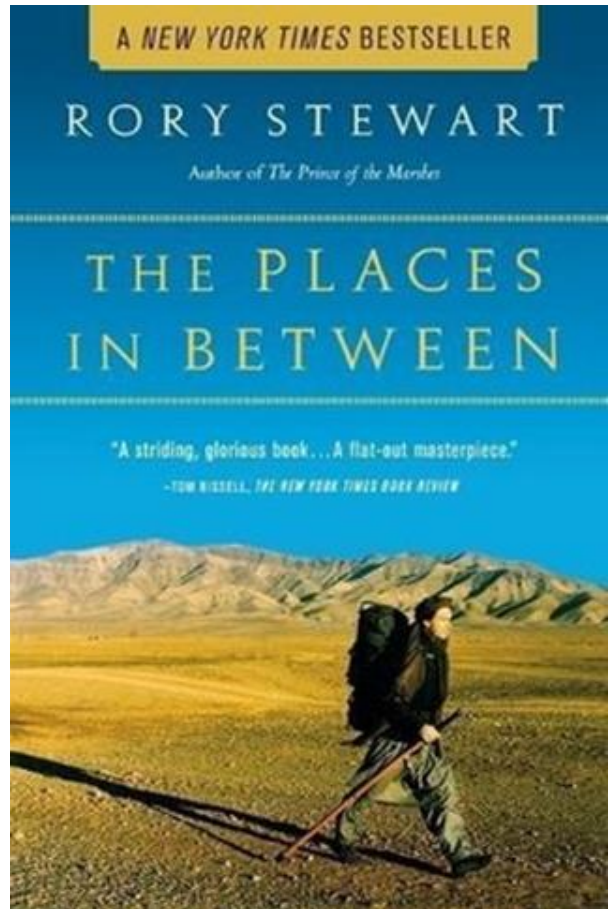
This was incredibly dangerous and he was regularly assaulted, he was shot at, and he almost died of exposure in the high mountains that make up the centre of the country.

One thing that struck me as I was reading was the cultural barriers that exist between people. Language is not really the problem, it is rather that the author sees the world so differently to those he meets. This does make the book a bit bleak in places, but there are plenty of moments of kindness and humour.

There is also a real hero in the book without whom I don't think the author would have survived.

I won't spoil the surprise about who that is.

**Mr Rowe, Head of Humanities**



## GUEST RECOMMENDATION



Each term we will 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.

We are lucky in Cirencester to have a wonderful bookshop with the most knowledgeable bookseller around when it comes to books for children and young adults. So, this term, we welcome a suggestion from **Octavia, of Octavia's Bookshop** on Black Jack Street.

### **STAGS** by M.A. Bennett

Suitable for Years 9 – 11

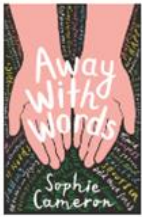
This is a brilliant teen thriller, perfect for fans of *One of Us is Lying* and the Holly Jackson books. Here we meet the students at a prestigious boarding school, but a school where everything is not as it seems...especially for the scholarship students, who have been 'lucky' enough to win a place there.

This book is really well-written, very atmospheric, absolutely gripping and leaves you with a plot twist that will make you want to read the next book in the series immediately!



## THE YOTO CARNEGIE MEDAL FOR WRITING

The **YOTO CARNEGIE MEDAL FOR WRITING** is the UK's longest running and best-loved children's book award, recognising outstanding reading experiences created through writing for children and young people. The shortlist for this year's award was announced last term and each of your English teachers will be championing their favourite of the books in lessons over the coming weeks. If any of the titles interest you, please ask in the library!



**Away With Words**  
Sophie Cameron  
Little Tiger



**Choose Love**  
Nicola Davies  
Graffeg



**Safiyyah's War**  
Hiba Noor Khan  
Andersen Press



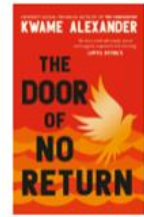
**Steady for This**  
Nathanael Lessore  
Bonnier Books UK



**The Boy Lost in the Maze**  
Joseph Coelho  
Otter-Barry Books

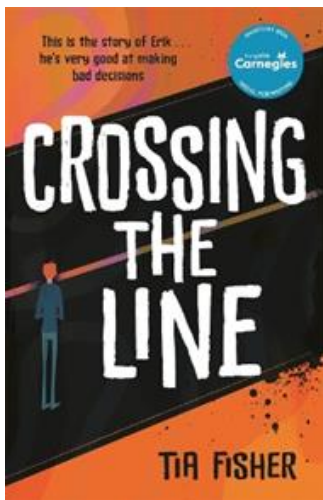


**Crossing the Line**  
Tia Fisher  
Bonnier Books UK



**The Door of No Return**  
Kwame Alexander  
Andersen Press

## FROM THE LIBRARY



### **Crossing the Line** by Tia Fisher

Suitable for Years 9 – 11

This is Tia Fisher's debut novel and it is heart wrenching, sad, and terrifying. Erik is a teenager facing grief, poverty, and loneliness. He feels that there are no other options but to choose a life of crime, where - initially - he feels like he belongs.

The poetry is emotionally charged. The story is powerful and alarmingly realistic.

Although Tia did not experience these events first hand, she used interviews with people who had, including close friends, to capture the feelings and powerlessness felt by Erik and other young people in these situations.

*Mrs Hughes, Librarian*

## NEW CHAPTERS 1

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

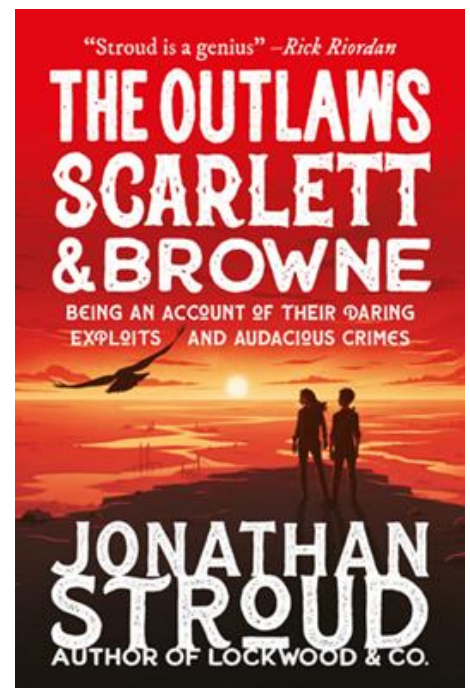
***The Outlaws Scarlett and Browne* by Jonathan Stroud** (Year 8 New Chapters book)

Suitable for Years 8 – 10

Scarlett McCain is a shoot-first ask-questions-later kind of outlaw. She scrapes by on bank heists, her wits – and never looking back. She's on the run from her latest crime when she comes across Albert Browne. He is the sole survivor of a horrific accident, and against her better judgement, Scarlett agrees to guide him to safety.

This is a mistake. Soon there are men with dogs and guns and explosives hot on their heels. Scarlett's used to being chased by the law, but this is extreme. It was only a little bank she'd robbed . . . As they flee together across the wilds, fighting off monstrous beasts, and dodging their pursuers, Scarlett comes to realise that Albert Browne is hiding a terrible secret. And that he may be the most dangerous threat of all!

[https://jonathanstroud.com/scarlett\\_and\\_brown.html](https://jonathanstroud.com/scarlett_and_brown.html)



## NEW CHAPTERS 2

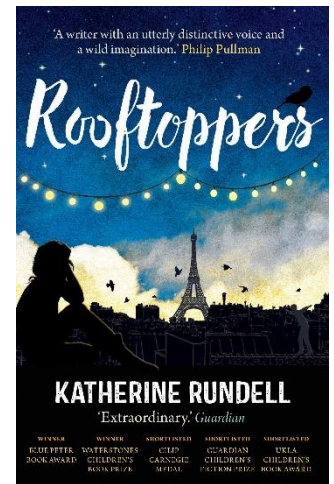
### *Rooftoppers* by Katherine Rundell

Suitable for Years 7 – 9

Everyone tells Sophie that she was orphaned in a shipwreck – found floating in a cello case on the English Channel on her first birthday. But Sophie is convinced her mother also survived.

When the Welfare Agency threatens to separate her from her guardian and send her to an orphanage, Sophie takes matters into her own hands, starting with the only clue she has – the address of a cello-maker in Paris. On the run from the authorities, Sophie finds Matteo and his network of rooftoppers – urchins who walk tightropes and live in the sky. In a race across the rooftops of Paris, will they be able to find her mother before it's too late?

<https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/rooftoppers-9781526624802/>



## READING CHALLENGE

After Christmas, Year 7 embarked on their inaugural **READING CHALLENGE**. They were tasked with reading in a range of forms and genres in order to complete their challenge cards. The participation from the year group was fantastic to see, with so many students showing real ambition with their reading and taking pride in completing their cards.

Huge congratulations to the winners this year who will receive certificates, books and a voucher for Octavia's: **Isabelle Otter, Layla King, Lola Tanner, Isabelle Leek, Livvy Hunt.**

## 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.

Students tracked their reading by updating their bookmark and it has been wonderful to see so many Year 8 students show such resilience to complete such a difficult challenge. We are still awaiting the final total raised and we will update everyone once we know, but a huge well done to all students who participated in Year 8.



## BRILLIANT BOOKSHOP EXPERIENCE



We are incredibly lucky to have been chosen to take part in a programme called the **BRILLIANT BOOKSHOP EXPERIENCE**, run in conjunction with National Book Tokens and Read for Good. This will see the Yellow Lighted Book Shop in Tetbury come and set up shop in our school library for two days at the start of Term 6. All of our students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will then receive a **FREE £10 book token** to spend in the shop.

This is an incredible opportunity for students to select a book of their choice and to continue their reading journey. More news will follow in the Head's letter later this term.

## BOOKISH THOUGHT FOR THE TERM...

**'Some believe that books are shaped by people. In fact, it is the other way around.'** Terry Pratchett