



Bredon Hill Academy  
— LEARNING TOGETHER FOR SUCCESS —

## Reading for Pleasure Newsletter Spring 2024

Our aim is for every student to say: “I am a Bredon Hill Academy student. I am a reader.”

**Our focus this term is: reading to build vocabulary.** Regular reading has been found to sharpen our concentration, increase our attention span and improve our memory. For children, developing positive habits for vocabulary acquisition early on supports them to understand and engage with each text they read, absorb new cultural knowledge alongside learning new words, and continue to expand their vocabulary as they get older by nurturing a love of reading. The more we read, the more we understand, and the more we want to know the meaning of new words as we come across them, because we begin to appreciate just how much the depth of our vocabulary enhances our reading experience. Literacy is the language of learning, both in fiction and non-fiction.

Why not try a graphic novel? These are longer stories written and illustrated in the style of a comic, combining a sequence of engaging visual elements that drive the plot, coupled with short pockets of text in the form of captions and dialogue. The format has seen a burst in popularity in recent years

### Books to try...

Year 6 9+



El Deafo is a funny, deeply honest graphic novel memoir for middle graders. It chronicles the author’s hearing loss at a young age and her subsequent experiences with a powerful and very awkward hearing aid called the Phonic Ear. It gives her the ability to hear—sometimes things she shouldn’t—but also isolates her from her classmates. She really just wants to fit in and find a true friend, someone who appreciates her, Phonic Ear and all. Finally, she is able to harness the power of the Phonic Ear and become “El Deafo, Listener for All.” And more importantly, declare a place for herself in the world and find the friend she’s longed for.



A beautiful adaptation of the classic novel. Renowned graphic novel artist, Edith, has created an enchanting version of the classic Tom’s Midnight Garden. This is a new and special way to read and share one of the best-loved and most enduring children’s stories of all time. A story with a special place in the hearts of grandparents, parents, and children everywhere, this wonderful graphic novel adaptation is faithful, accessible, and stunningly illustrated. A perfect gift for all the family.

Year 7 11+



Percy Jackson – now in stunning graphic novel form!

Look, I didn't want to be a half-blood. I never asked to be the son of a Greek God. I was just a normal kid, going to school, playing basketball, skateboarding. The usual. Until I accidentally vaporized my maths teacher. That's when things started really going wrong. Now I spend my time fighting with swords, battling monsters with my friends, and generally trying to stay alive.

This is the one where Zeus, God of the Sky, thinks I've stolen his lightning bolt – and making Zeus angry is a very bad idea.

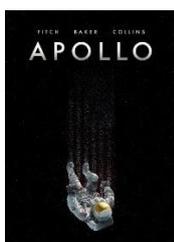
Can Percy find the lightning bolt before a fully-fledged war of the Gods erupts?

Year 8 13+



This is the first in a series of 12 action-packed graphic novels that features Nicholas Cox, who is determined to be the big new star of the fencing world. That's until he comes up against his sword-wielding nemesis Seiji and his own half-brother who can seemingly do no wrong. A compelling read.

Graphic Text 12+



A gripping account of the moon landing in 1969 with insight and input from astronaut Michael Collins. Vibrant illustrations will appeal to pupils in KS3 upwards who are interested in science and exploration...

## Dyslexia-friendly Text 12+



Despite only seeing one another for a few weeks each autumn, Deja and Josiah have been best friends for years. Every September and October, they have shared shifts at the best pumpkin patch in the world, working mostly in the Succotash Hut serving traditional Halloween food to hungry visitors.

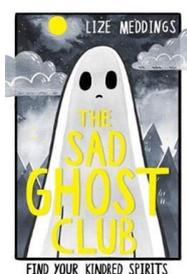
But tonight is their last shift together as they will both be leaving for college soon. While Josiah is characteristically gloomy about this end of an era, Deja is determined their final evening at work will be a memorable one.

She has a plan. And nothing fate can throw in her way will deter her from making sure the pair go out with a bang!

Packed with puns, visual jokes and realistic dialogue, this charming and absorbing graphic novel is brilliantly illustrated in shades of russet and gold that evoke a truly autumnal feel. The storyline is strong and unexpected, reflecting a diverse and inclusive young adult peer group.

Although the setting may be unfamiliar to readers in the UK, it gives a whirlwind tour of the traditions, food and activities that give a flavour of how Halloween is celebrated in the USA.

## Neurodivergence-Focused Text 12+



After being invited to a party, SG struggles with the decision of whether or not to go. On one hand, they don't want to be the only one that didn't go, but on the other hand, the thought of going to a party fills them with anxiety... And when SG does pluck up the courage to go, when they get there, there are all those awkward social interactions to navigate.

This heart-warming black-and-white graphic novel perfectly captures the experience of anxiety, swirling thoughts and the challenges of social interaction when you are a quiet, shy person, or experiencing depression. Taking place over just 24 hours, ultimately it's about the power of friendship to help us step outside our loneliness, and the joy found in making communities of like-minded souls. As SG and Socks open up to each other and become friends, they take solace from the discovery that they are not, after all, alone in their experiences.

We are always on the lookout for good quality books to boost our stock too. If you have any age-appropriate (10-13) good quality texts that you no longer need, do think about donating them to us. Just drop them off at reception. We would be extremely grateful. We are looking forward to World Book Day on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

**WORLD BOOK DAY**

# NEED A MOOD LIFT?

FIND OUT MORE AT [WORLDBOOKDAY.COM](http://WORLDBOOKDAY.COM)

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Places to visit for book information:



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<https://wordsforlife.org.uk/activities/> <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/>

Let Mrs Bartlett know of any good texts you would like featured in these newsletters. Drop her an e-mail [cbartlett@bredon.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:cbartlett@bredon.worcs.sch.uk) or leave her a post-it-note in room 4.

Thank you for your time. Our next issue will be out in April. The English Department.