



Bredon Hill Academy
— LEARNING TOGETHER FOR SUCCESS —

Reading for Pleasure Newsletter Spring 2 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 stamina and imagination. 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.

There’s nothing I love more than escaping into a story. A really good book can make it feel as if you’re quite literally stepping inside and exploring a brand-new world. For me, there’s something especially exciting about falling into a world that’s a little different from our own, going along for the ride as a heroic protagonist tries to defy the odds. Whether it’s time travel or spaceships, superpowers or super villains, science fiction books are some of the most exciting. Books to try...

Year 6 9+



‘The Iron Man’ by Ted Hughes is one of the best-known and loved stories for children of the twentieth century. The Iron Man is a fearsome figure, wreaking terrible destruction wherever he goes. He cannot be stopped - but it takes a child to realise that he is not simply a hostile monster, but could even be a friend. Then, when a monster from outer space threatens to lay waste to the planet and its people, it is the Iron Man who finds a way to save them. Subtitled 'a children's story in five nights' this powerful, moving and beautifully-written fable from poet Ted Hughes is a true modern classic.

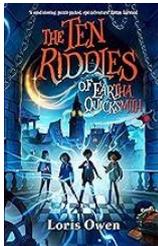


When Arthur, Ren and Cecily enter an abandoned house to rescue a trapped dog, they unknowingly step through a portal into both the future and a galactic ‘in reality’ adventure game called Wonderscape.

But what now? To get home, they need to find one of the game’s creators, Milo Hertz, who has a special time-key that will open the gateway back to 2021. That means navigating the Wonderscape, solving the game’s puzzles and completing the challenges. But there are bigger problems: firstly, Milo’s been missing for three years. And secondly, they only have 57 hours to find him before a game reset turns them into slime...

Wonderscape is an expertly crafted, breakneck speed adventure with a videogame-like structure: codes to crack, loot to collect and different levels – or ‘realms’ – to explore. Combine this with the mystery of Milo’s disappearance, the time-sensitive nature of the heroes’ quest, and the discovery of some much darker goings-on within the Wonderscape, for a page-turning, fun and highly imaginative read.

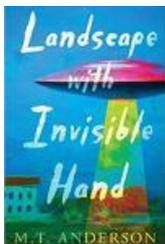
Year 7 11+



Selected for The Summer Reading Challenge 2022 in conjunction with the Science Museum.

When puzzle-loving Kip Bramley receives a cryptic invitation, delivered by a beetle-shaped drone that appears to be breathing, he has no idea that his world is about to change forever. Very soon he finds himself at Quicksmiths College of Strange Energy, hunting for riddles set 400 years earlier by a mysterious genius. But this isn't any ordinary treasure hunt: as the clock counts down, Kip will need all the help he can get from his loyal new friends and his faithful pet flying squirrel, Pinky. With danger mounting it seems much more is at stake for Kip and his family than he could ever have imagined.

Year 8 13+



Landscape with Invisible Hand is a satirical sci-fi novel by M.T. Anderson. It is set in the aftermath of an alien invasion and the subsequent economic collapse. The level of violence is low, limited to a threatening attack against Adam's mom by a desperate job seeker.

Graphic Text 12+



Daytripper TP by Luke Pearson

The first of a series of six, this is a visually stunning and unique story that uses innovative time shifts to tell the story of Bras – an aspiring writer – at various points in his life. Useful to read and discuss with reluctant writers, and a good starting point for looking at creating interesting narrative structures.

Dyslexia-friendly Text 12+



At an elite academy where the wealthiest students from across the galaxy come to be educated, Hugo works as a watchmaker in a dusty attic room. But he is one of the lucky ones. Many androids like him are jobless and homeless. A privileged student like Dorian could never understand their struggle – or so Hugo thinks when the pompous duke comes knocking at his door. But when Hugo and Dorian uncover a potential terrorist threat, android and student must overcome their differences and work together to track down the culprit before the whole academy is placed in danger.

Neurodivergence-Focused Text 9+



Casander Darkbloom is a hero, but not the kind we're used to. As his story begins, he's homeless and living in the shelter of an antiques/curio shop, waking every morning with no memory of the previous day. He's also affected by uncontrolled twitching in his limbs. Dragged into another world by a young girl called Warrior, he finds his memory returns, though the shaking continues. But more, in Wayward, gateway to the Balance Lands, and specifically at Wayward School, he's greeted as the Foretold, and revealed to have huge and unique powers. Even this is just the beginning however.

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 enjoyed WBD with vouchers and a free book.



Places to visit for book information:



<https://www.lovereadingleading4kids.co.uk/>

<https://www.readingrockets.org/topics/early-literacy-development/articles/reading-your-child>



<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 or leave her a post-it-note in room 4.

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