

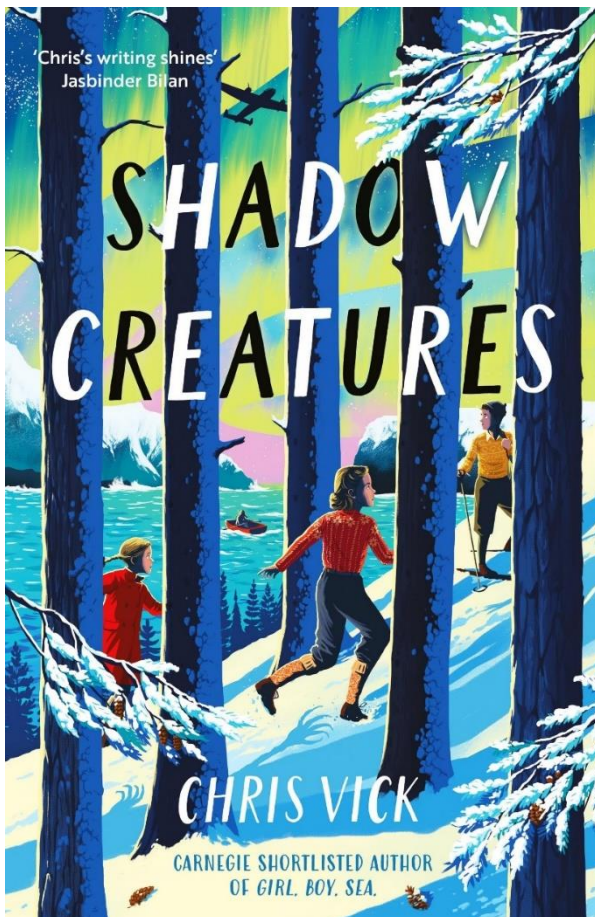
KINGSHILL READS



CIRENCESTER
KINGSHILL
SCHOOL

Welcome to the sixth edition of **KINGSHILL READS**! This is 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, just let a member of the English Department know!

BOOK OF THE TERM



Shadow Creatures by Chris Vick

Suitable for: Years 7 - 9

We were incredibly fortunate to have the author Chris Vick join us for World Book Day this term and so we thought it only fair to feature his brilliant new novel as our Book of the Term!

Inspired by his own family history, Vick has created a vivid and moving account of Norway under occupation in the Second World War, told through the eyes of children Tove and Liva.

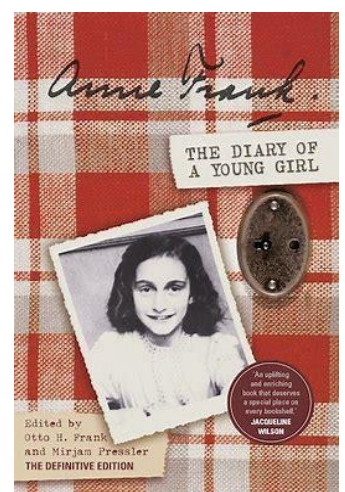
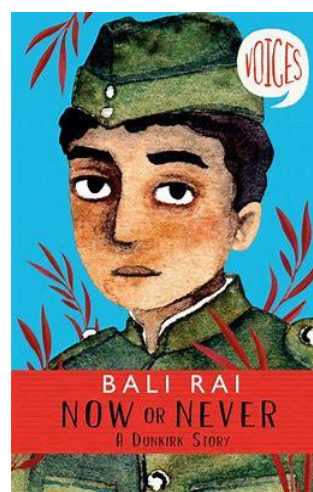
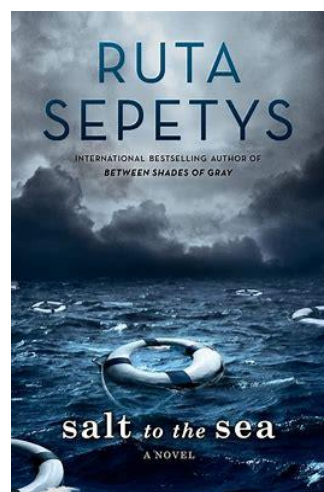
This spell-binding narrative starts in modern-day Norway with Georgy, who is visiting her Norwegian family for her summer holiday. A vivid vast setting is instantly created as the family gathers outside in the beautiful wilderness, around a fire, blankets on laps and drinks in hand. To avoid being sent inside to do the dishes, Georgy persuades her grandmother Tove and Great-Aunt Tove to tell the tale of Agna, the old woman, who she has recently seen in the woods.

Instead of asking historical questions about Norway's occupation for her school history project, Georgy is more interested in the family history and Agna, also known by Liva as 'huldra', the "underjordiske" or undergrounds, 'shadow creatures' from the novel's title.

The story slowly reveals how Agna, the pretty and lively girl of the village, comes to be the isolated old woman of the woods, following her bid to keep Liva safe from harm following Liva's attempt to contribute to the resistance against the Nazis.

Mr Smith, Head of English

IF YOU LIKE SHADOW CREATURES, TRY THESE...



STUDENT RECOMMENDATIONS



***As Good As Dead* by Holly Jackson**

Suitable for Years 8 - 10

This is a murder mystery book. Pip and her boyfriend Ravi go on a journey to help solve a frightening mystery. Pip is being followed by a shadowy stalker although her parents think she is imagining things and being childish.

However, Pip finds a connection between her stalker and a series of local deaths but, like her parents, the police don't believe her and refuse to act, leaving Pip and Ravi to investigate the discovery by themselves.

My favourite section is when Pip is trying to argue her case to a judge who refuses to listen to her and immediately starts the hearing for another case.

I would recommend this to anyone who loves a good mystery book and also one with plenty of fighting and action.

Georgia, Y7

***Lost on Gibbon Island* by Jess Butterworth**

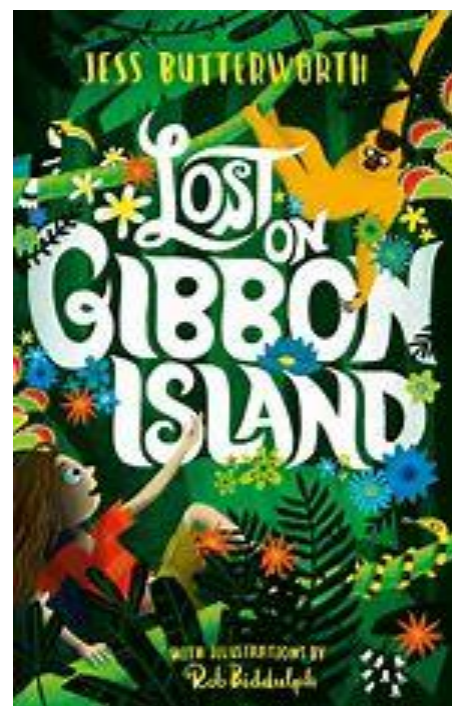
Suitable for Years 7 - 9

I would recommend this book to anyone, but especially to readers who like books about adventures. I love the Cambodian island setting, a strange and peculiar place full of mystery and with a strange temple.

My favourite moment is when Lark, the main character, meets a young baby gibbon for the first time and the gibbon quickly becomes the best character in the book.

The two get lost in the jungle and the book follows their attempt to find their way out and survive in the wild.

Olly, Y7



***Glow up, Lara Bloom* by Dee Benson**

My favourite character in this book is Lara, who won't be pushed around by anyone and whose friendships are really important to her. She is loyal and caring towards her friends and this makes her such a good character.

I love the part of the book when Lara stands up for herself against some bullies and proves she is a powerful and determined girl.

Every chapter in the book really draws you in and I could read this book all over again.

I would recommend this book to anyone in Year 7 and above.

Bethany, Y7

FROM THE LIBRARY

***Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury**

Suitable for Years 9 – 11

Written in 1953, Bradbury was inspired to write this book because of the book burning during WW2. The book was named because 451 degrees Fahrenheit is the temperature at which books burn...Bradbury also used to be a librarian and typed his stories in the basement of his local library.

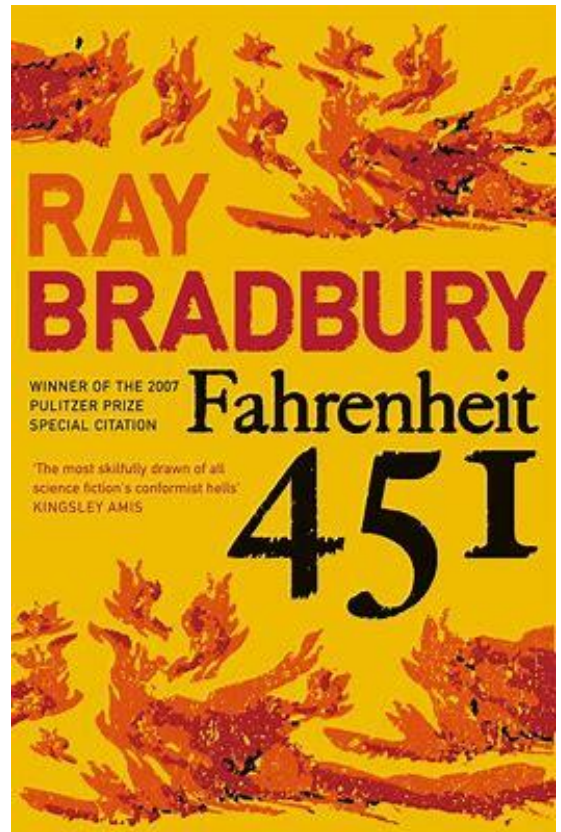
You meet Montag, one of the Firemen. In this dystopian world firemen do not put out fires but cause them. They particularly want to burn books as books give knowledge and power and with knowledge and power is freedom. So, books are burned and people are encouraged to watch the TV wall instead.

As the story progresses Montag comes under the influence of a woman who would rather die than have her books burned and then the people who each memorise a book in order to keep the stories alive.

"There must be something in books, something we can't imagine, to make a woman stay in a burning house; there must be something there. You don't stay for nothing."

This is a fantastic, important, essential read.

Mrs Evans, Librarian



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.

Last term, Sarah Cooksley, Head of Learning and Participation at Cheltenham Festivals, kindly sent us not one, but two book reviews, and here is her second. Not only is Sarah no stranger to YA fiction from her time as a Head of English, but she also helps to organise the hugely successful Reading Teachers = Reading Pupils programme.

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

Suitable for Year 7-11

In a world of many verse novels, this is one of the best I have come across. Crossing the Line depicts the growing issue of young people being caught up in County Lines as we see the main character Erik deal with the death of his dad and find himself trapped in a terrifying world of gangs, drug dealing and violence. It sounds like this would be a dark and tragic book, which it is at times, but it is also one of hope, love, family and friendship. This is an important book in an increasingly dangerous world and the verse is so cleverly crafted throughout to keep the pace moving and bring Erik's story to life on the page. If you like a verse novel, or even if you haven't discovered them yet, read this one!

Sarah Cooksley,
Head of Learning and Participation at Cheltenham Festivals

SUBJECT SPOTLIGHT

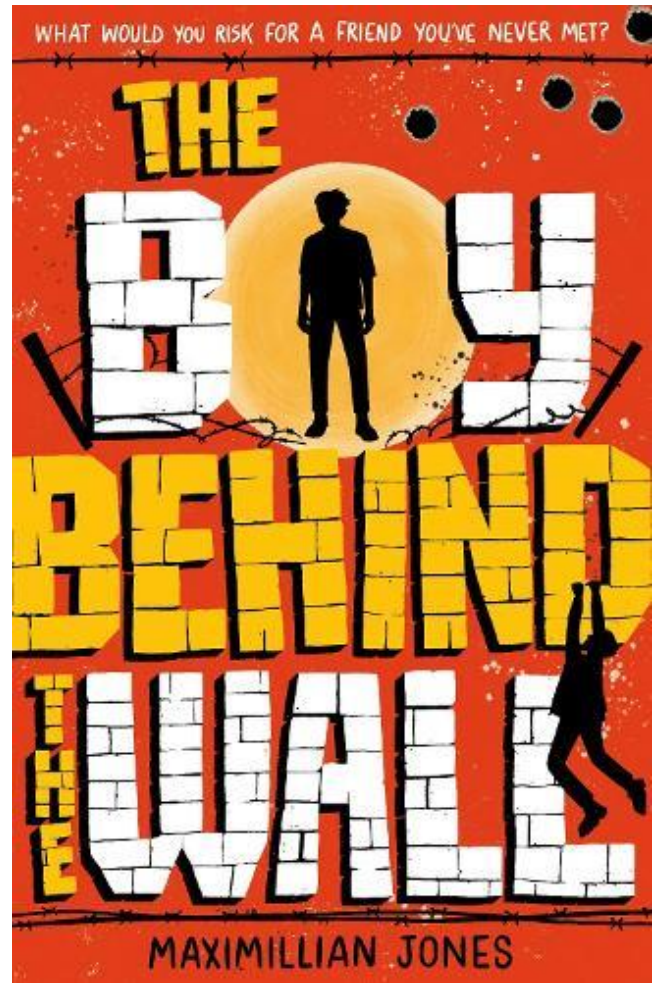
At Kingshill, reading is not just for English lessons, so each term a member of staff from a different department will recommend a book they think you might enjoy and that will enhance your understanding of their subject. Our sixth SUBJECT SPOTLIGHT recommendation comes from one of our Teachers of MFL, Mrs Weighell.

***The Boy Behind the Wall* by Maximillian Jones**
Suitable for Years 9-11

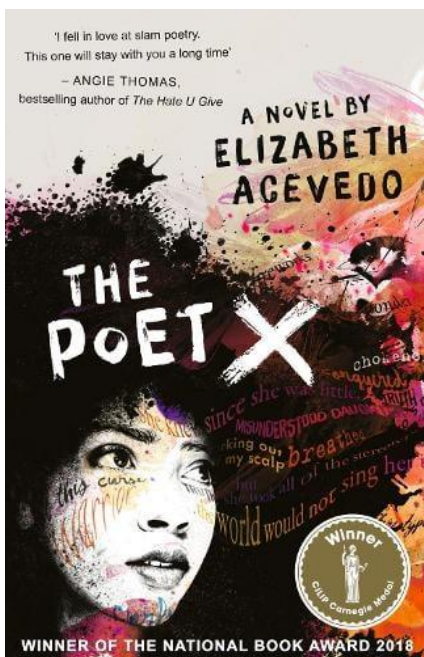
The Boy Behind the Wall by Maximillian Jones is a gripping historical fiction book set in 1960s Berlin. The story follows two fourteen-year-old boys, Harry and Jakob, living on opposite sides of the Berlin Wall. Harry, an American in West Berlin, witnesses a tragic escape attempt, within the first few pages of the book, where a young person dies on the Berlin Wall. The tragedy remains with him and sparks him wanting to help those wishing to leave East Germany. Jakob, the adopted son of a high-ranking Stasi officer in East Berlin, feels trapped and longs for freedom. Their secret friendship, communicated through hidden messages, leads to a daring plan to tunnel under the Wall.

This novel is a thrilling adventure that highlights the power of friendship and our human nature to be free. I found it a compelling read and would highly recommend the story to young adults and German or history enthusiasts. There is a copy in the library, once I return mine. The author has also written the book called *Breaking Down the Wall* that I'll be looking to read next.

Mrs Weighell, Teacher of MFL



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.

***The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo** (Year 10 New Chapters book)
Suitable for Years 9 - 11

Xiomara, a fierce teenage girl of Dominican heritage, is starting to notice boys, but her strict Catholic parents have decided that there will be absolutely no contact with the opposite sex until marriage. Her twin brother, always the apple of their parents' eye, is also struggling with his own emergent attraction to another boy.

Yet when Xiomara sits next to Aman in science class, she can't deny the attraction – and starts to question why she would want to. At the same time, a new teacher at school starts a slam poetry club, and Xiomara's notebook, filled with the poetry she is too shy to share with anyone, yearns to be shouted, sung, confessed.

A verse novel that sings with the rhythms of slam poetry, Xiomara's powerful and affecting story deals openly with religion alongside first love and the blossoming of her own artistic talents.

The Book Trust

BOOKISH THOUGHT FOR THE TERM...

"The world is shaped by two things—stories told and the memories they leave behind." —Vera Nazarian

