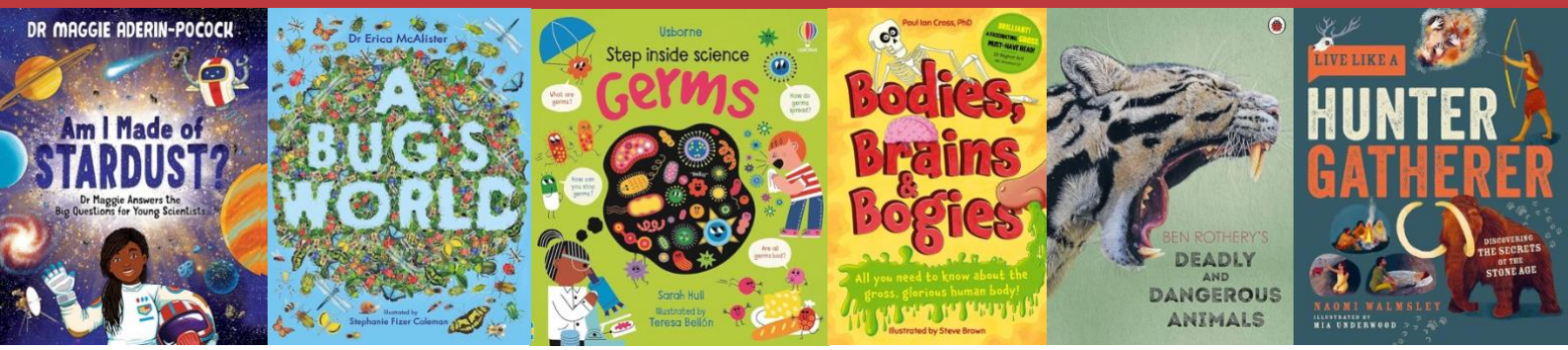
Reading Newsletter

Autumn 2023



Royal Society Young People's Book Prize

We have received the shortlisted books and they look amazing (click on each book cover above to find out more about them). Our judging panel is made up of 10 children: Kashni, Robin, Vivian, Dylan B, Gaia, Tasneem, Anas, Fredrik, Raimundo and Vasishta. We have already met to discuss **Live Like a Hunter Gatherer** and **Am I Made of Stardust?** and will be scrutinising the other four books over the next few weeks before submitting our votes in February.

Spark! School Book Awards

Lots of children in Strand helped to choose books for the longlist in the graphic novel category of this year's Spark! awards. With 25 books to consider, it was quite an effort so a big thank you to Charlie H, David C, Victoria, Maya, Kaha, Shadlin, Nikhil, Holly, Jake, Evie, Grace, Cary, Krishna, Ella, Chloe, Zac, Arto, Emma B, Elizabeth M, Otto J and Patrick.

The longlist has just been announced and the selected books are shown below. You might be able to see them on display near the office, although they are very popular! Which one would you choose?

What is Your Favourite Thing About Reading?

Authors have lots of good reasons for why you should pick up a book.

Whose do you think is the best?

Piers Torday @PiersTorday

There are no superheroes. Magic is an illusion. To live the amazing life of your dreams, there is only one secret power you need. READING ✊

Lucy Strange @TheLucyStrange

Reading a book is like having your own TARDIS - you can go anywhere in space & time, and into the realms of the impossible...

Simon James Green @simonjamesgreen

Reading matters for lots of reasons - it's fun, escapism and it helps you find yourself and understand others.

Malorie Blackman @malorieblackman

D'you want to know where real magic lives? It lives within the pages of books. Reading for fun can change who you are and who you can be. 😊📚

Joseph Coelho @JosephACoelho

Books have more images between their words than any smart phone could hold. More flavours than a thousand jelly beans. More lives for you to live than any computer game.

Christopher Edge @edgechristopher

Reading books can help you to make sense of the world, provide a refuge from it and maybe, one day, inspire you to build a better one.

A.M. Dassu @a_reflective

You can go anywhere + everywhere + with anyone in a book. Mind blowing adventures await you - open that book + find out where you'll go today!

Ross Montgomery @mossmontmomery

Kids should read because, first and foremost, it's fun. The fact it also makes them smarter, kinder and wiser is just a bonus.

SF Said @WhatSFSaid

Books open up our eyes & hearts & minds. They can show us the world in a different light; they can take us to other worlds, other times, other lives. Books connect us as nothing else can, bringing us together.

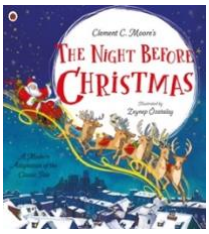
Maisie Chan @MaisieWrites

Reading is important for many reasons in life - it can give you information, help you see other people's lives, and can be a friend when you need one.

Andy Ruffell @andy_ruffell

I love reading because it allows me to escape our busy world and it’s one of the few things that quietens my constantly buzzing mind.

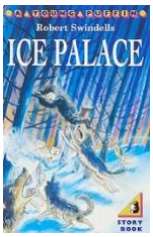
Strand Recommends… some icy tales for the cold weather!



The Night Before Christmas by Clement Clark Moore is an amazing story about Christmas Eve. While the children are asleep, we find out what happens when Santa visits. It is a brilliant book and I would recommend it to anyone of any age.

Hattie 6R

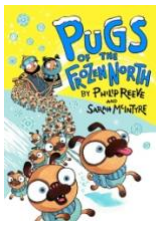
The Midnight Guardians by Ross Montgomery is a fabulous wintry tale. It is about Col and his imaginary friends who travel to London to save Col's big sister Rose from an air raid during World War II. It fits both the adventure and fantasy genres (my two favourites) and is fast-paced, vivid and filled with wonderful descriptions. I'd recommend this to anyone aged 8 and above.
Thomas 6H



We read **The Ice Palace by Robert Swindells** in class and it inspired our reading and writing in many ways. The main character is Ivan and his little brother is stolen by Starjik and his pack of hungry, bloodythirsty wolves. Ivan goes on a mission to find his brother. Will he ever find him alive? We recommend that you read it to find out the answers!

Sara, Mia and 3DR

I enjoyed **The Night I Met Father Christmas by Ben Miller** because I really like Christmas stories. It is about a boy called Jackson who knows all about the reindeer, elves and the North Pole workshop but he has a question about how Father Christmas became Father Christmas. However, it all changes when he meets him in real life and hears his amazing story.
Selin 6K

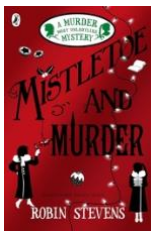


I love dogs which is why I chose **Pugs of the Frozen North by Philip Reeve**. It is also about the North Pole which matches our topic but best of all it is funny and I really liked the pictures by Sarah McIntyre.

Leahna 3S

With a beautiful cover that matches the mystery inside, **The Ice Children by M.G. Leonard** is a fantasy story with a fairy-tale feel. It is just after midnight at the start of December when Bianca's brother Finn is found frozen in the park; his heart is beating but he is unsettlingly blue and nobody can wake him. While more children are found frozen each day, Bianca sets out on a quest to rescue her brother. Can she save him before it is too late?

Mrs Jones



I would recommend **Mistletoe and Murder by Robin Stevens**. Daisy and Hazel go to snowy Cambridge for the holidays. While they are visiting, there is a series of dangerous attacks on Donald Melling who is going to inherit the family fortune. It is an exciting and thrilling mystery with lots of twists and turns that happen throughout and kept me turning the pages.

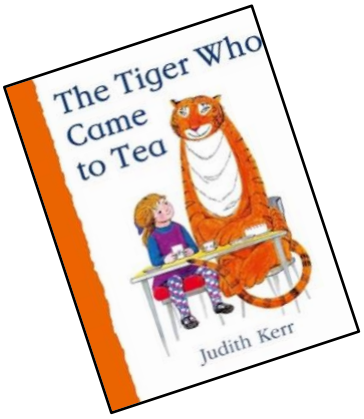
Carla 5M

Holiday Reading

Join the **Blue Peter Book Club**. It's free to take part and some of the books are available on **Sora**. Each month they talk about a different book and want to find out your thoughts on it too. They also have lots of fun activities, quizzes and cool challenges to try.

If this wasn't exciting enough, you can **apply for a Blue Peter badge**!
Did a story make you laugh out loud, whisk you away on a thrilling journey or introduce you to an unforgettable character? Share your book review and you could earn this book-tastic badge.

Win a prize in our Ideal Dinner Guest competition



In these books the characters enjoy a meal, but they can be a bit disruptive to say the least. For the chance to win a prize, choose fictional book characters who would be your ideal dinner guests over the holidays. Hopefully they would be less troublesome but what makes them so special? Do they like to eat strange things? Are they kind, interesting, funny or maybe even scary? Once you have decided, create a picture or write about their visit.

There is a task on Google Classroom, or you can give your entry to your teacher in January. We're looking forward to finding out who you have chosen!

Empathy Action Month

Empathy is one of our Strand values so check out the reads recommended by **Empathy Lab** for 2023. Some of the books are available on the **Sora** online library. Follow the instructions **here** if you need help logging in.

Books make brilliant presents. Buy from LoveReading4Kids and you get 10% off whilst they contribute 25% for our school to buy more books.
If you are looking for present ideas, LoveReading4Kids and Toppsta have lists of favourites books from 2023 or FCBG have recommended festive books.

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