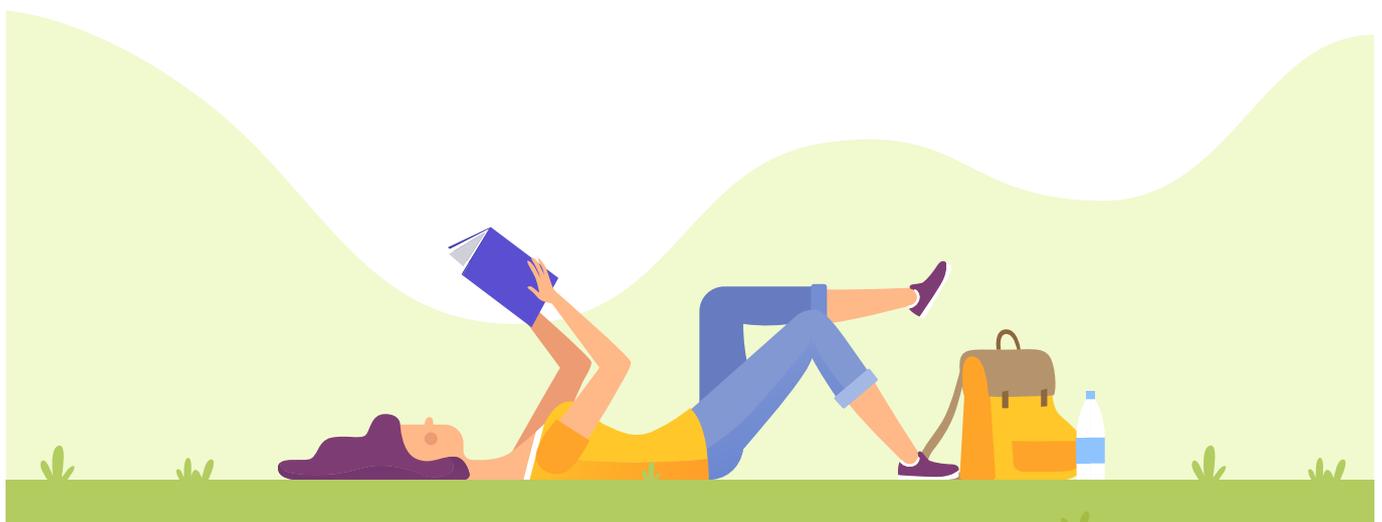




As the end of the academic year approaches, you and your child will no doubt be planning what to do over the summer. This welcome break from routine will provide opportunities for children to go out and do activities they may not have been able to do for a while, as well as exploring interests they may have developed through the curriculum this past year. In addition, it would be very beneficial for children to continue their reading.

Reading benefits many areas of education and life. In addition to the obvious benefits on reading comprehension and attainment, it also impacts upon:

- vocabulary
- understanding of grammar
- spelling skill
- writing attainment
- attitudes to reading and writing
- knowledge and understanding of the world and other people
- achievement in other subjects, including maths
- empathy and understanding of emotions
- mental wellbeing
- development of our sense of 'self' and identity.



To help you and your child select some reading material for this summer, we have collated a range of books which your child may enjoy immersing themselves in over the break. **Please note that unless otherwise stated, the texts are suitable from Year 7 and up, but please do research the books before selecting them to ensure that they are appropriate for your child.**

In addition, this newsletter provides you with a range of interactive, virtual cultural experiences that can help to build their wider knowledge and interests. This is obviously not an exhaustive list – there’s so much they could explore. Whatever they are curious about, or take interest in, consider looking at books around the topic, or encouraging them to research into the area further through non-fiction texts such as online articles.

Whatever you explore with your child this summer, we wish you a wonderful summer and hope that you enjoy adventuring through a range of stories too.



We are delighted to also share a video from the wonderful author Phil Earle, who shares why he thinks reading is important as well as ways parents like him can support their child with reading – we hope you find it useful.

LISTEN TO PHIL EARLE’S PARENT TALK:



PHIL EARLE RECOMMENDS

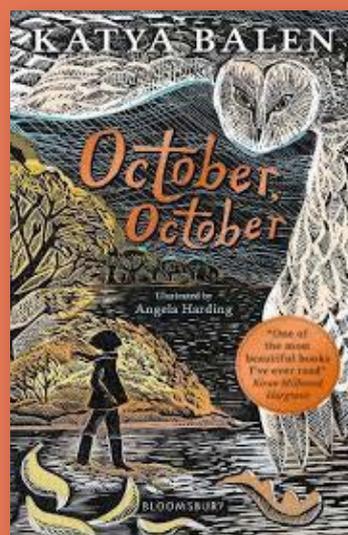
Phil Earle is the author of many books for young people, including the award-winning new novel *When the Sky Falls*. Having struggled with reading himself when he was younger, Phil now writes fantastic books and is keen to share stories with young people which may help them to find the book that will interest them.



October, October

KATYA BALEN

October and her dad live in the woods. They know the trees and the rocks and the lake and stars like best friends. They live in the woods and they are wild. And that's the way it is. Until the year October turns eleven. That's the year October rescues a baby owl. It's the year Dad falls out of the biggest tree in their woods. The year the woman who calls herself October's mother comes back. The year everything changes...





Birdsong

KATYA BALEN

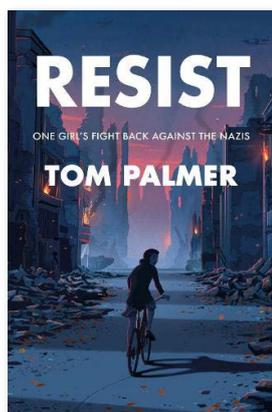
PRE-ORDER FOR JULY 7TH

After a devastating car crash, Annie is unable to play her flute and retreats from the music she's always loved. She exists in a world of angry silence – furious with her mum and furious she can't seem to play her beloved flute any more. Then she meets Noah, who shows her the blackbirds' nest hidden in the scrubland near their flats. As their friendship grows, the blackbird's glorious song reignites Annie's passion for music. But when tragedy strikes again, will her fragile progress be put at risk?

Resist

TOM PALMER

PRE-ORDER FOR AUGUST 4TH



As the brutal Second World War stretches on with no end in sight, life for ordinary Dutch people in the Nazi-occupied Netherlands is fraught with peril and hardship. There is very little to eat and the population lives under the constant threat of arrest and enslavement. After the murder of her

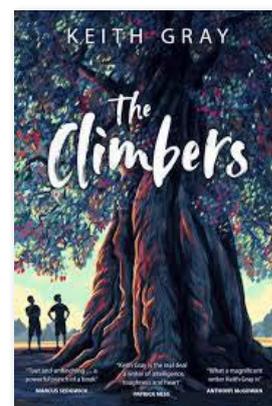
beloved uncle and the capture of her brother by the Germans, Edda is determined to do anything she can to help the resistance fight back against their oppressors. But what can a teenage girl do and how much risk is she willing to take?

The Climbers

KEITH GRAY

(13+)

Sully is the best climber in the village. He can scale Twisted Sisters' tangled branches and clamber up Double Trunker with ease. But when new kid Nottingham shows up and astonishes everyone with his climbing skills, Sully's status is under threat and there's only one way to prove who's best. Sully and Nottingham must race to climb the last unnamed tree. Whoever makes it to the top will become a legend. But something spiteful and ugly has reared its head in Sully... Is it worth losing everything just to reach the top?



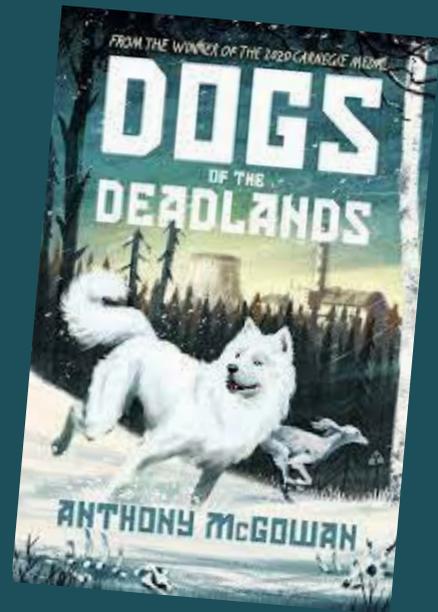
Dogs of the Deadlands

ANTHONY MCGOWAN

PRE-ORDER FOR SEPTEMBER 1ST

The world is coming to an end. Dragged from her bed in the middle of the night and forced to leave her beloved puppy behind, Natasha has no idea if she'll ever return home. Growing up in the shadow of the ruined nuclear power plant, pups Misha and Bratan need to learn how to live wild - and fast. Creatures with sharp teeth, scythe-like claws and yellow eyes lurk in the overgrown woods. And they're watching the brothers...

But will the dogs survive without humans? And can humans live without them?

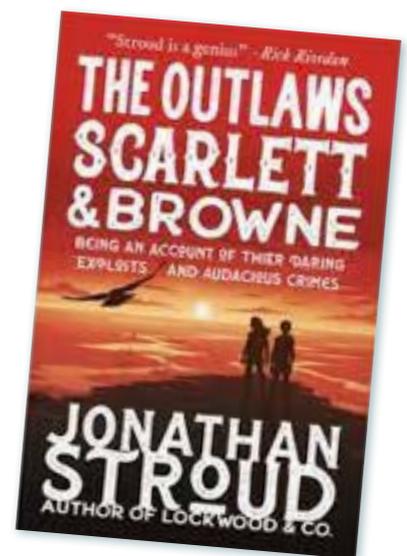


The Outlaws Scarlett and Browne

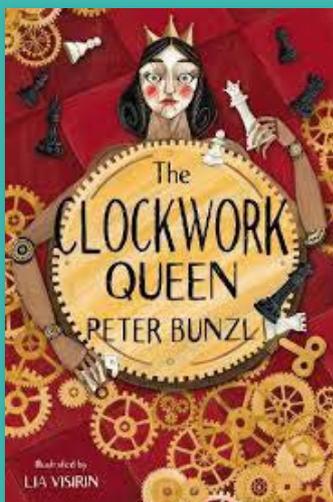
JONATHAN STROUD

England has been radically changed by a series of catastrophes – large cities have disappeared and London has been replaced by a lagoon. The surviving population exists in fortified towns where they cling to traditional ways, while strangely evolved beasts prowl the wilderness beyond. Conformity is rigidly enforced and those who fall foul of the rules are persecuted: some are killed, others are driven out into the wilds. Only a few fight back – and two of these outlaws, Scarlett McCain and Albert Browne, display an audacity and talent that makes them legends.

THE SEQUEL, THE NOTORIOUS SCARLETT AND BROWNE, IS ALSO NOW AVAILABLE TO PRE-ORDER FOR JULY 7TH!



SHORTER-LENGTH, ACCESSIBLE NOVELS FOR 11-14-YEAR-OLDS
WITH DYSLEXIA-FRIENDLY FONT AND ENGAGING STORIES



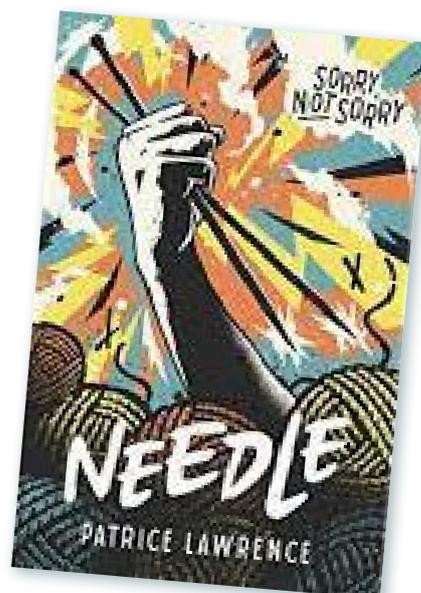
The Clockwork Queen PETER BUNZL PRE-ORDER FOR RELEASE ON MARCH 3RD

Chess prodigy, Sophie Peshka, inherited her love of the game from her grandmaster father. But now that he has been imprisoned in the dungeons of the Winter Palace in St Petersburg, by powerful Empress Catherine the Great, Sophie must use all her strategic skill and cunning to help him escape. Part of Sophie's plan involves an incredible chess-playing automaton called the Clockwork Queen, but will the Queen be able to outwit the Empress in a game where the stakes are a matter of life and death?

Needle

PATRICE LAWRENCE (12+)

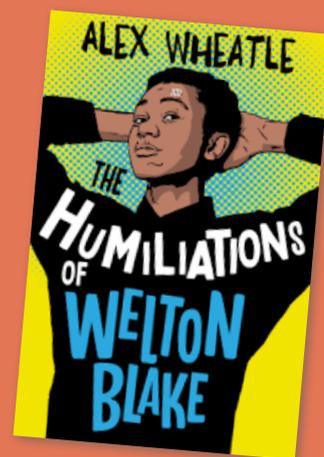
Charlene is a demon knitter. It's the only thing she enjoys and the only thing she believes she's really good at. So, when her foster mum's son destroys her latest creation, Charlene loses it and stabs him in the hand with her knitting needle. It damages a nerve and she gets sucked into the criminal justice system for assault. Charlene's not sorry and she's never apologised to anyone in her life. But people keep telling her that if she says sorry, they'll go easier on her. Can she bring herself to say it and not mean it when her freedom's at stake?



The Humiliations of Welton Blake

ALEX WHEATLE (12+)

Welton Blake has done it! He's asked out Carmella McKenzie—the 'best-looking' girl in school—and she's only gone and said yes! But just as he thinks his luck is starting to change, Welton's phone breaks, kick-starting a series of unfortunate and humiliating events. With bullies to avoid, girls ready to knock him out and all the drama with his mum and dad, life for Welton is about to go very, very wrong...



The Disconnect

KEREN DAVID (13+)

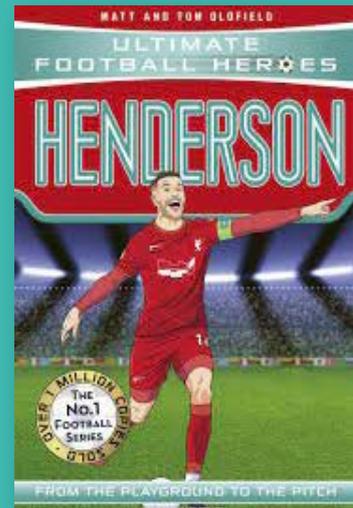
Could you disconnect from your phone for six weeks? An eccentric entrepreneur has challenged Esther's year group to do just that, and the winners will walk away with £1,000. For Esther, whose dad, sister and baby nephew live thousands of miles away in New York, the prize might be her only chance to afford flights for a visit... But can she really stay disconnected for long enough to win?

MORE SHORT FICTION READS

Ultimate Football Heroes - Henderson

MATT & TOM OLDFIELD

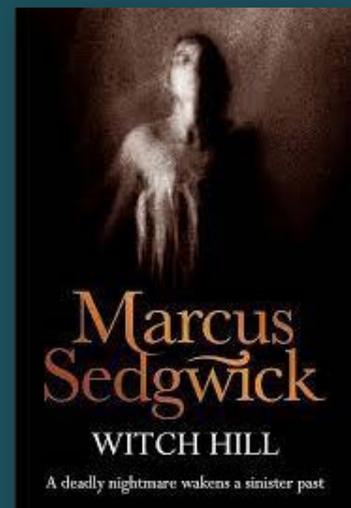
This is the story of Jordan Henderson, captain of Liverpool Football Club and midfield powerhouse for the England national team. Follow his exciting journey from kicking a football on the Sunderland streets to hearing his name boom on a Champions League winning night under the bright Anfield lights. *The Ultimate Football Heroes* series contains a number of biographies telling the life stories of footballers and their journeys from childhood fan to professional player.

**Witch Hill**

MARCUS SEDGWICK

The fire was a family tragedy that Jamie can't forget, even in his dreams. And now there is something terrifying happening to him in Crownhill, the village where he's been sent to get over his problems. Something to do with an evil old witch who gets into his nightmares and a frightened girl, the victim of a long-ago witch hunt, whose presence lingers on. As the dark secrets of Crownhill are revealed, Jamie has to confront his worst fears in order to free himself from the horrors of the past.

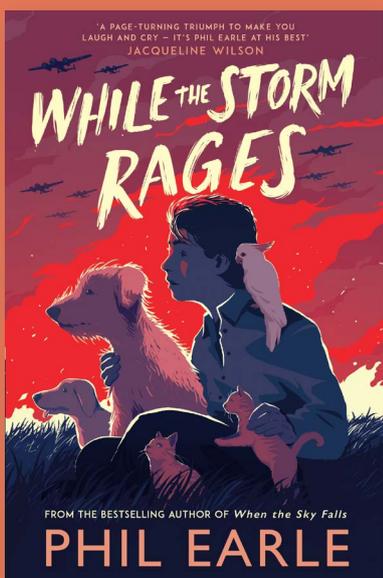
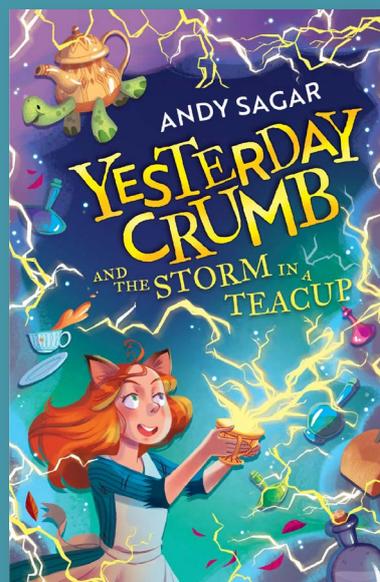
WATCH MARCUS TALK ABOUT HIS BOOK, AND THE INSPIRATION BEHIND IT, HERE:



LONGER FICTION READS

Yesterday Crumb and the Storm in a Teacup ANDY SAGAR

Yesterday Crumb is no ordinary girl. She was born with fox ears that have cursed her to a lonely life working in the circus and her origins are a complete mystery. But she is about to escape into the adventure of a lifetime when she learns that she's a strangeling who's lost her magic. Taken in by Miss Dumpling the flamboyant Tea Witch, Yesterday is introduced to a magical, walking teashop filled with fantastical customers, a flying teapot turtle called Pascal and powerful spells in every teacup! Yesterday starts to rediscover her magic and to feel a sense of belonging. But a mysterious figure of darkness is working hard to ensure her new life comes crashing down - and it all starts with a deadly shard of ice in Yesterday's heart...



While the Storm Rages PHIL EARLE

September 1939. The world is on the brink of war. As his dad marches off to fight, Noah makes him a promise, to keep their beloved family dog safe. When the government advises people to have their pets put down in readiness for the chaos of war, hundreds of thousands of people do as they are told. But not Noah. He's not that sort of boy. With his two friends in tow, he goes on the run, to save his dog and as many animals as he can. No matter what.

WATCH PHIL TALK ABOUT HIS BOOK, AND THE ORIGINS OF THE STORY, HERE:

If you like this book, you may also like his book *When the Sky Falls!*



Girl

TAMSIN WINTER

Most parents try to limit their kids' online exposure. But not Eva's. Her parents run a hugely successful YouTube channel, and Eva is the star of the show. But Eva is getting sick of being made to pose in stupid mum-and-daughter matching outfits for sponsored posts. The freebies aren't worth the teasing at school. And when an intensely humiliating "period party" post goes viral, Eva is outraged. She's going to find a way to stop the channel, even if she has to sabotage it herself.



This Wicked Fate KALYNN BAYRON (12+)

The sequel to *This Poison Heart*.

Briseis's mother is dead, but there is one chance to bring her back: find the last piece of the deadly Absyrtus Heart. If Bri is to locate the missing piece, she must turn to the blood relatives she's never known, learn of their secret powers and take her place in their ancient lineage. But Bri is not the only one who wants the Heart, and her enemies will stop at nothing to fulfil their own ruthless plans. Can she harness her power to save the people she loves most?

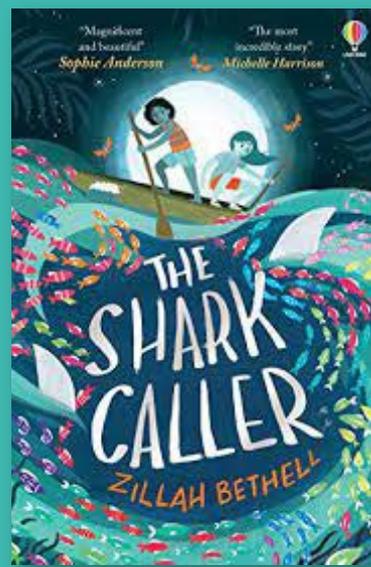
WATCH KALYNN TALK ABOUT
HER BOOK HERE:



The Shark Caller

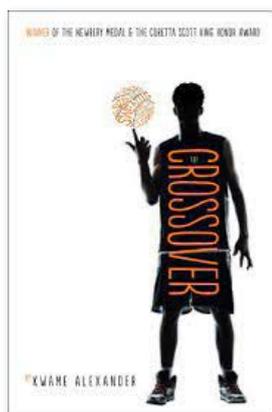
ZILLAH BETHELL

Blue Wing is desperate to become a shark caller, but instead she must befriend infuriating newcomer Maple, who arrives unexpectedly on Blue Wing's island. At first, the girls are too angry to share their secrets and become friends. But when the tide breathes the promise of treasure, they must journey together to the bottom of the ocean to brave the deadliest shark of them all...



The Crossover

KWAME ALEXANDER (12+)



12-year-old Josh and his twin Jordan have basketball in their blood. They're kings of the court, star players for their school team. Their father used to be a champion player and they each want nothing more than to follow in his footsteps.

Both on and off the court, there is conflict and hardship which will test Josh's bond with his brother.

The Summer We Turned Green

WILLIAM SUTCLIFFE (12+)



It's the summer holidays, and thirteen-year-old Luke's life has been turned upside down. First his older sister Rose moved 'across the road', where a community of climate rebels is protesting the planned airport expansion. Then his dad followed her. Dad only went to get Rose back, but now he's out there building totem poles, wearing sandals and drinking mead (whatever that is) with the best of them.

Only on the Weekends

DEAN ATTA (13+)



Fifteen-year-old Mack is a hopeless romantic – he blames the films he’s grown up watching. He has liked Karim for as long as he can remember and is ecstatic when Karim becomes his boyfriend – it feels like love.

But when Mack’s dad gets a job on a film in Scotland, Mack has to move, and soon he discovers how painful love can be. It’s horrible being so far away from Karim, but the worst part is that Karim doesn’t make the effort to visit. Love shouldn’t be only on the weekends.

Then, when Mack meets actor Finlay on a film set, he experiences something powerful, a feeling like love at first sight. How long until he tells Karim – and when will his old life and new life collide?

Glorious Poison

KAT DUNN (13+)

As Royalist strength grows, the Duc de L’Aubespine plots a coup that will consign the revolution to history. With Olympe in his clutches, he believes nothing can stop him. But he’s reckoned without the intrepid Battalion of the Dead! Reunited in Paris, Ada is poised for action – but if she plays her hand too soon, everything she’s sacrificed to gain his trust will be lost. Meanwhile, an unlikely alliance with an old enemy might be Camille’s only option to save Olympe and stop the duc in his tracks.

The glittering and macabre bals des victimes and the eerie catacombs make the perfect backdrop for the final episode of the Battalion’s tale.



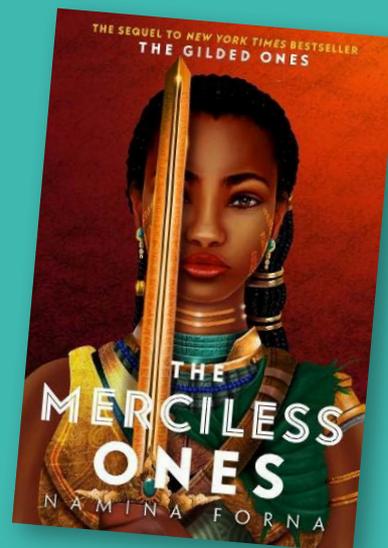
The Merciless Ones

NAMINA FORNA (14+)

THE GRIPPING SEQUEL TO THE GILDED ONES.

It's been six months since Deka freed the goddesses in the ancient kingdom of Otera, and discovered who she really is... But war is waging across the kingdom, and the real battle has only just begun. For there is a dark force growing in Otera - a merciless power that Deka and her army must stop.

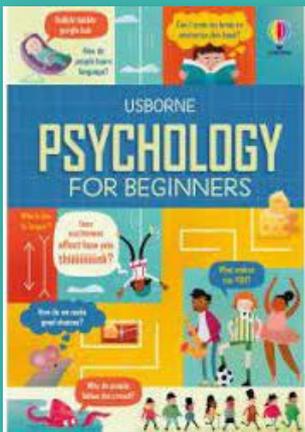
Yet hidden secrets threaten to destroy everything Deka has known. And with her own gifts changing, Deka must discover if she holds the key to saving Otera... or if she might be its greatest threat.



WATCH NAMINA TALK ABOUT
HER BOOK AND GIVE A
READING FROM IT
BY CLICKING HERE:



NON-FICTION



Psychology for Beginners

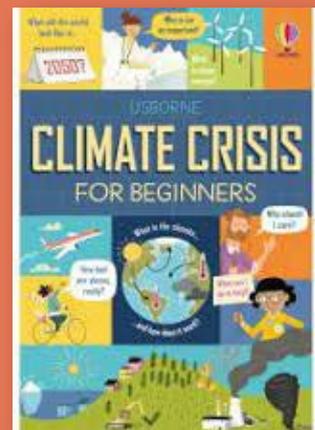
VARIOUS AUTHORS

Fully-illustrated and filled with real-world examples, this book explains the basics of psychology, from how people think, feel and behave to how scientists can study and be sure about what is actually going on in other people's brains.

Climate Crisis for Beginners

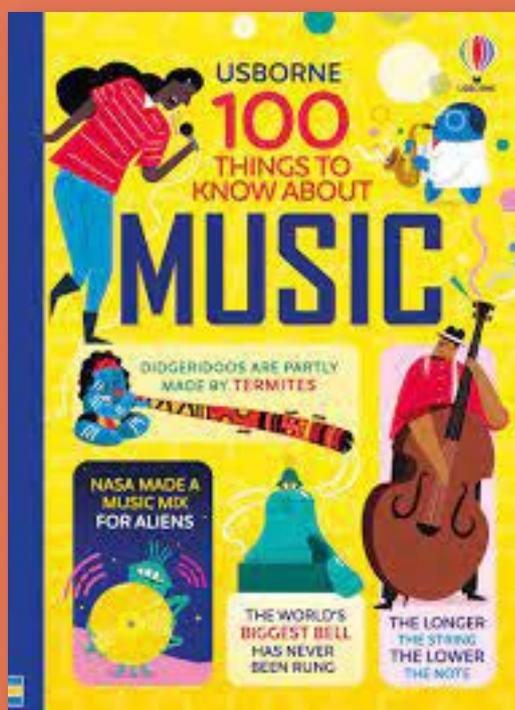
VARIOUS AUTHORS

The climate crisis is real. Climate change is having an enormous impact on the world around us. This book uses simple language and vivid illustrations to explain complex questions clearly. How does the climate work? What are we doing to change it? What can we do differently to avoid the worst outcomes? Why do we all find change so hard? The climate crisis is a troubling and sensitive topic, especially for children, so the book includes vital tips on how to set realistic goals and not get overwhelmed by bad news.



100 Things to Know About Music

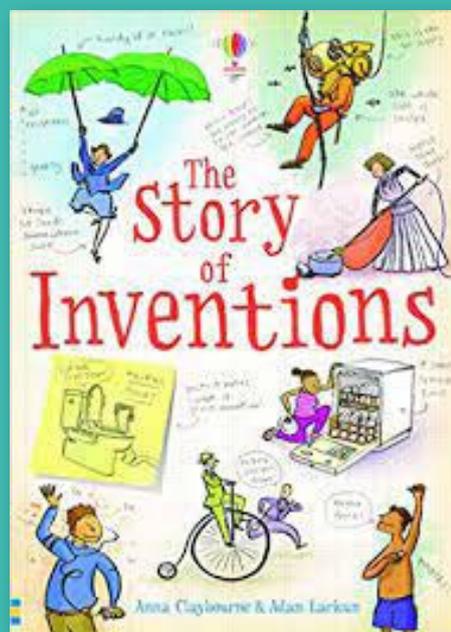
VARIOUS AUTHORS



Which tunes could save a life, and which should come with a health warning? How do talking drums tell the history of Africa? What happens in your brain when you listen to music? Find the answers to these questions and more in this exciting book exploring all corners of the diverse world of music.

The Story of Inventions

ANNA CLAYBOURNE



From toilets, bread and blue jeans to aeroplanes, microwaves and computers, this title explains how, when and why the ingenious inventions that surround us were created. The development of one invention is detailed over each double page, revealing the real-life stories behind each creation, as well as how they have been influenced by other discoveries over the ages. Humorous illustrations by Adam Larkum show how the inventions work.

Exploring a wide variety of experiences and activities helps to introduce your child to knowledge and interests they may not otherwise have acquired. You may already have lots of ideas for getting out and about over the summer, but we have also collated a few ideas to start you off below. These may spark an interest in something your child may then want to read about, either through a story book or through non-fiction texts.

In this ten-part podcast series, the most frequently asked questions about Shakespeare's life are explored. [Listen to the podcasts related to the questions you are interested in.](#)

Watch a 'making of' video about a film of your choice. For example: [Pirates of the Caribbean](#), [The Curse of the Black Pearl](#), or this video entitled [Creating Harry Potter](#). Both videos are full of interesting information about details you may not have noticed and are fascinating insights into the production of films.

Explore areas of the [Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History](#). You can see their permanent, current and past exhibits.

Watch [this interview](#) with Tim Peake, focusing on his experience in space.

Explore the TED-Ed YouTube playlist for [myths from around the world](#).

Over the centuries, music has changed with developments in harmony, rhythm and technology, to name but a few. Listen to [Snarky Puppy's instrumental piece of jazz fusion](#).

Watch the first episode of the [Grand Canyon In Depth Video Series](#), and any other episodes you are interested in.

Browse through the last 500 years of art on the Tate Britain website, viewing artworks and videos from the curators.

Explore the [English Timeline](#) on the British Library website.

Watch the TED-Ed video [The unexpected math behind Van Gogh's Starry Night](#).