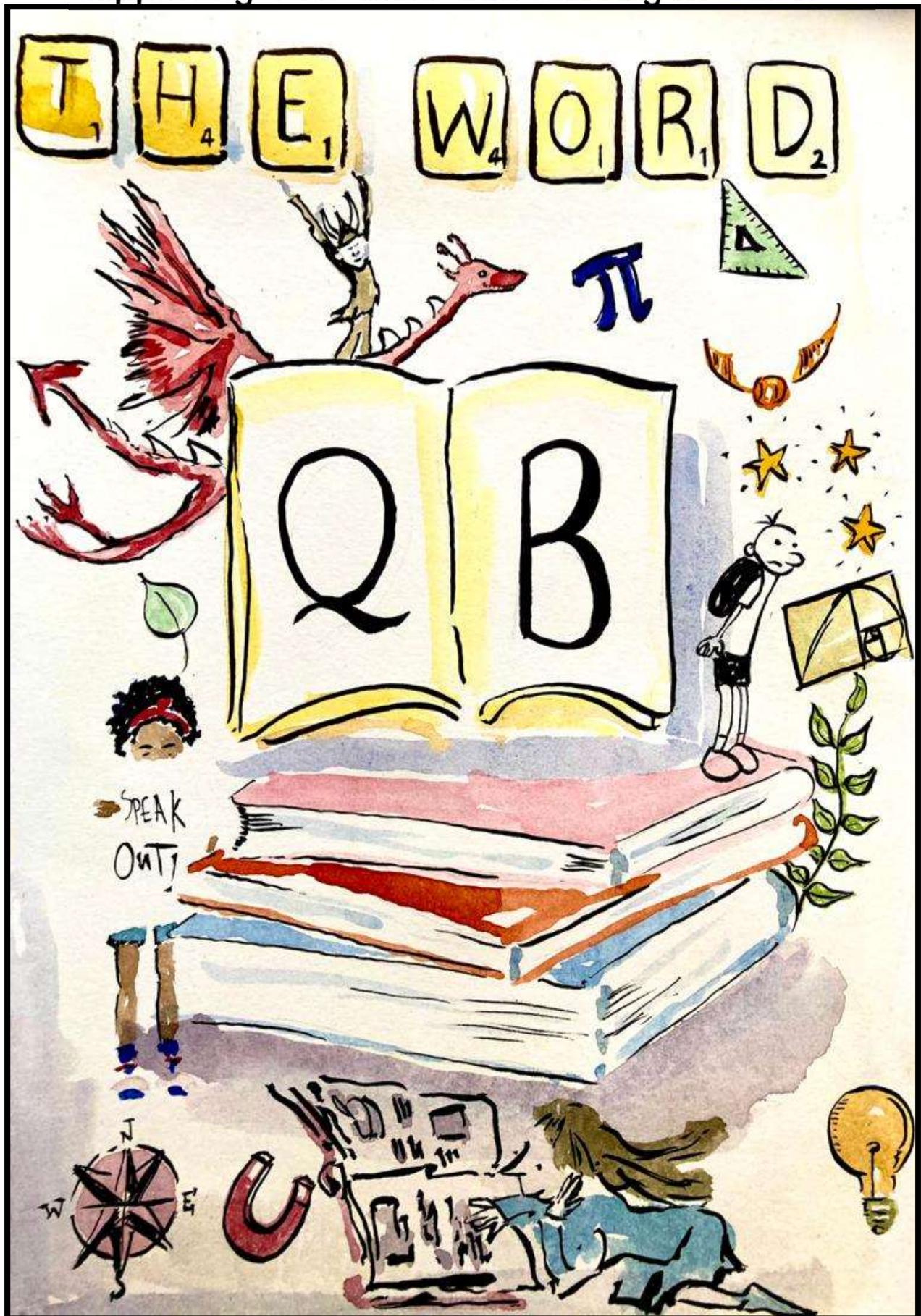


Supporting Your Child with Reading to Learn



June 2021

Welcome to June's edition of **The Word**.

This month we explore the power of **Non-Fiction** and how it can empower young people to understand themselves and their world.

American author and journalist Tom Wolfe once said, "The problem with fiction is that it has to be plausible. That's not true with non-fiction." Sometimes the truth is stranger (and therefore more engaging) than fiction!

Monthly Features

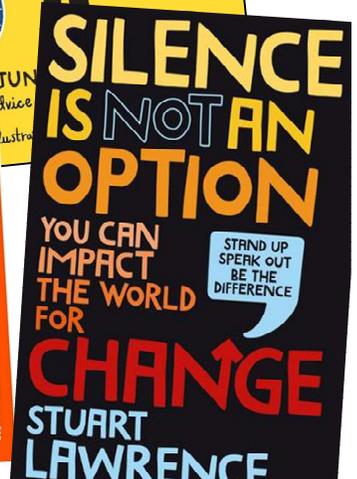
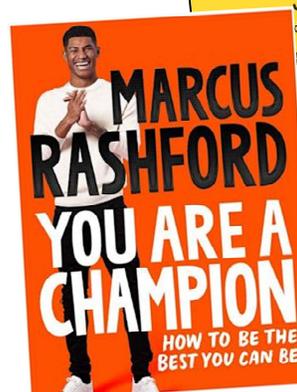
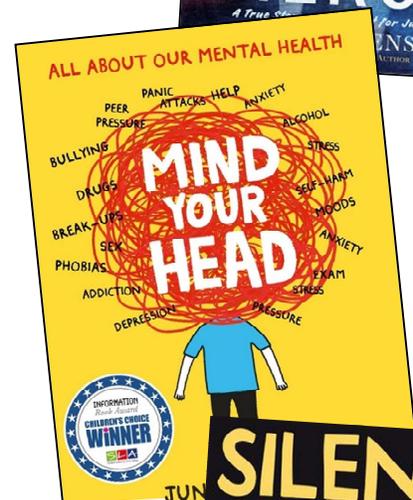
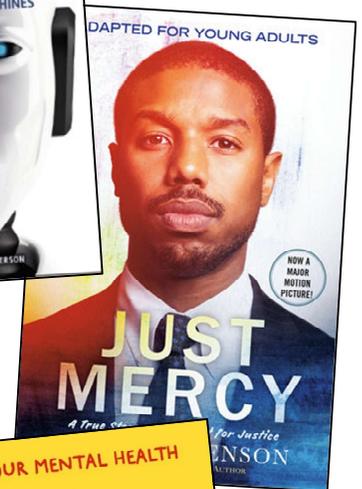
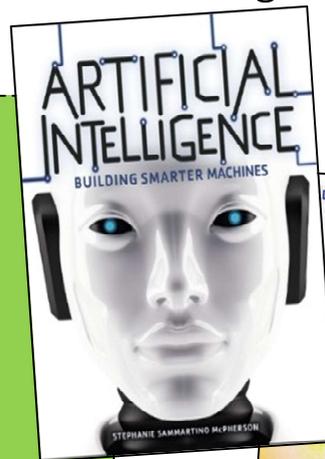
1. Top Tips
2. Expert Opinions
3. Reading Recommendations
4. Reading News

As non-fiction makes up around 84% of adult, real-world reading, spending some time with these texts as a young adult is essential. In the following pages we share some top recommendations and expert opinions to inspire you and your child to enjoy some gripping non-fiction this summer.

As always, to stay up to date with everything reading related, follow us!

 Twitter: @QbridgeLibrary

 Instagram: @qb_schlibrary



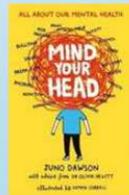
Top Tip #3

Non-fiction books can be a great tool to help teenagers explore and investigate problems in their lives and around the world.

The BookTrust recommend these fantastic books to explore the issues facing young people today - from the demonization of the working class to gang culture to sexuality, while others help explain how the world has ended up where it has.

Mind Your Head

Author: Juno Dawson with advice from Dr Olivia Hewitt
Illustrator: Gemma Correll
Interest level: 12+
Reading age: 12+



How to Be a Bawse

Author: Lilly Singh
Interest level: 12+
Reading age: 12+



Marley Dias Gets It Done and So Can You!

Author: Marley Dias with Siobhan McGowan
Interest level: 10+
Reading age: 10+



The Missing: The True Story of My Family in World War II

Author: Michael Rosen
Interest level: 10-14
Reading age: 9+



The Bigger Picture: Women Who Changed the Art World

Author: Sophia Bennett
Illustrator: Manjit Thapp
Interest level: 9+
Reading age: 9+



Fearless! How to be your true, confident self

Author: Liam Hackett
Illustrator: Mike Perry
Interest level: 9-13
Reading age: 10+



Managing Your Money

Author: Jane Bingham and Holly Bathie
Illustrator: Nancy Leschnikoff and Freya Harrison
Interest level: 9+
Reading age: 9+



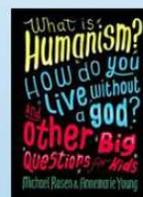
What is Masculinity? Why Does it Matter? And Other Big Questions

Author: Jeffrey Boakye and Darren Chetty with artwork by Oli Frape (Design by Rocket Design)
Interest level: 10-14
Reading age: 9+



What is Humanism?

Author: Michael Rosen
Interest level: 8+
Reading age: 8



Politics - Cutting Through the Crap

Author: Bali Rai

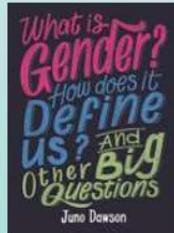


What is Gender?

Author: Juno Dawson

Interest level: 10+

Reading age: 10+



Persepolis

Author: Marjane Satrapi

Translator: Blake Ferris

Interest level: 13+

Reading age: 12+



Politics for Beginners

Author: Alex Frith and Rosie Hore and Louie Stowell

Illustrator: Kellan Stover

Interest level: 10+

Reading age: 10-12

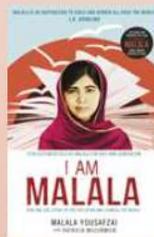


I am Malala

Author: Malala Yousafzai

Interest level: 13+

Reading age: 13+



The Girl Guide: 50 lessons in learning to love your chang...

Author: Marawa Ibrahim

Illustrator: Sinem Erkas

Interest level: 10-14

Reading age: 10-14



Don't Pick on Me!

Author: Rosemary Stones

Interest level: 9+

Reading age: 9+



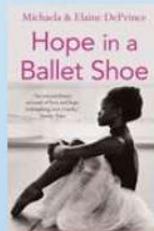
Hope in a Ballet Shoe

Author: Michaela and Elaine De Prince

Illustrator: Michaela De Prince

Interest level: 11+

Reading age: 11+



You Are Awesome

Author: Matthew Syed

Illustrator: Toby Triumph

Interest level: 10+

Reading age: 9+



Expert Opinion

This month's expert opinion is abridged from the article 'Nonfiction in the Early Grades: A Key to Reading Success' from The Global Reading Network



Nell Duke (2000) discovered that in year one, only 3.6 minutes per day were dedicated to reading informational text and that only 10% of books in classroom libraries were informational. She made the point clearly and convincingly that reading and writing informational text is critical in this information age. She presents seven reasons:

1. Nonfiction prepares students for later years and the information age.

Nonfiction becomes increasingly important to students as they progress through school, and it represents the vast majority of adult usage. For children to read and learn from nonfiction books they must be exposed to nonfiction regularly,

2. Nonfiction is an important resource for children of low socio-economic status.

Duke (2000) and others have found that children of lower socio-economic status are disproportionately under-exposed to informational text, which could partly explain stubborn achievement gaps. Background knowledge can be a particular challenge for children of low socio-economic status (Neuman, 2006). Lack of background knowledge is a major barrier to reading, and to participation in subjects across the curriculum. Informational text provides new knowledge (think science, history and maths), supports the development of new concepts and enables readers to develop more diverse reading comprehension strategies.

3. Nonfiction bursts with rich vocabulary.

Vocabulary knowledge is key to academic achievement, comprehension and the general ability to speak, read and write. Nonfiction text integrates vocabulary in an accurate and natural manner. While this vocabulary can be complicated, as in books about geology, it is also possible to integrate correct terms into fun books for children. For example, such vocabulary appears in books that focus on daily phenomena like cloud formation, local pottery and the habits of desert animals. Children easily absorb new words, and nonfiction has a special role to play in both learning words and connecting those words to related concepts.

4. Language learners can do well with nonfiction.

In developing countries, children are often challenged to learn new languages and function academically in languages that are not their mother tongue. Second language learning is enhanced when the subject of reading and discussion is concrete and oral interactions are scaffolded. Nonfiction books provide realistic pictures to talk about, aiding pupils to use familiar ideas to connect what they know in their native language to words in the new language.

Expert Opinion Continued...

5. Nonfiction connects children with their world.

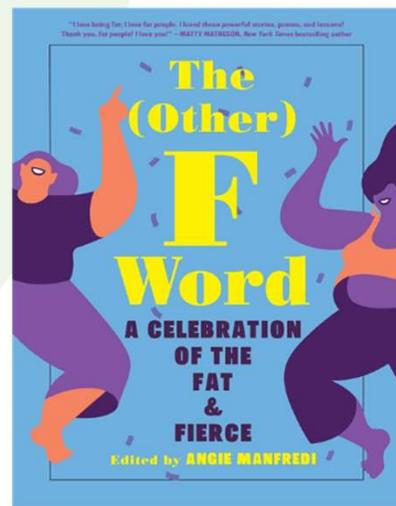
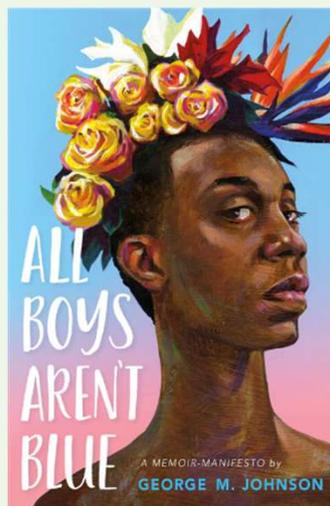
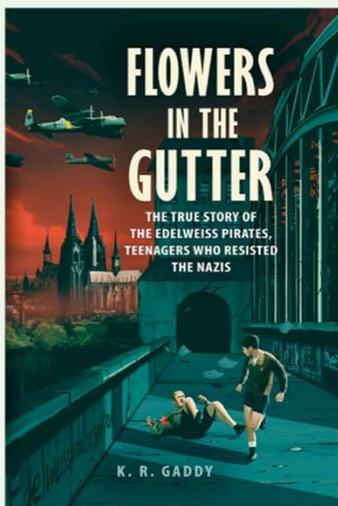
Children everywhere have “funds or knowledge,” or simply put, a wealth of experience, before they start school. Most of it is from real life—for example, listening to parents at the market, participating in ceremonies and celebrations etc. Nonfiction can connect children with the world around them. Fun and exciting nonfiction links to children’s informal experiences, gives children accurate vocabulary to describe what they see, deepens conceptions about the *why* and *how*, and extends what they know into the unknown.

6. Life-improving information and voice is enabled by nonfiction.

Children in many contexts are faced with difficult situations and choices (displacement, hunger, corporal punishment or a heavy burden of chores and sibling care). Informational text can give children strategies to improve their health and safety. Text with analysis and argument can give students a new perspective and allow them to begin to explore ways to improve their situation. As Malala rightfully expressed, the voice of children armed with information and a firm grasp of their context can be a powerful force for change.

7. Nonfiction motivates reading.

Did you ever wonder “Why”? All of us do, and it starts early. Why don’t snakes have legs? Why do the rains come at the same time each year? Despite the adult misconception that kids are only interested in fantastical worlds, many children are awed by their own world and have a deep thirst for information. Research confirms that when adults show they care about nonfiction, and students have good quality books, many prefer it to fiction, and most children want to read both.

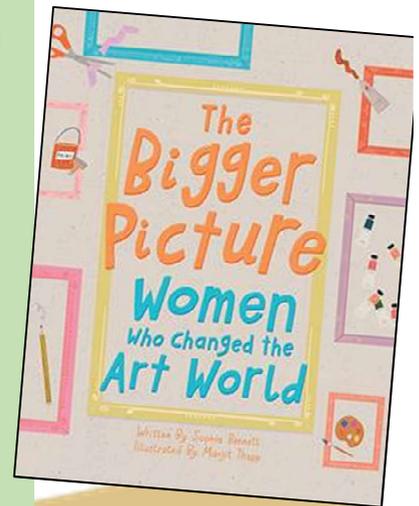


Reading Recommendations

KS3 Recommendation:

For thousands of years, predominantly female makers have created beautiful objects with great skill and artistry. In the West, weaving, sewing, embroidery and painting on crockery were considered crafts, and not fine art like painting or sculpture. This wasn't the case all over the world: in China, arts such as calligraphy and embroidery were always considered as important as painting and sculpture. Islamic art has always prized garden design, carpet making and architecture.

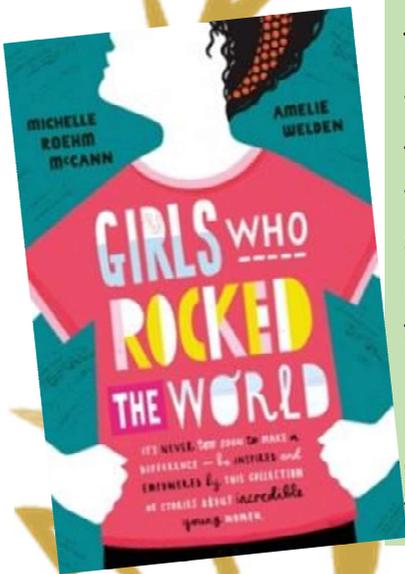
In this fascinating book, women artists from all over the world and their work are profiled - from Sonia Boyce, a contemporary London artist whose art considers the depiction of the black female figure, to the art activist group the Guerrilla Girls, famous for their subversive posters, and Paula Rego, Cindy Sherman, Louise Bourgeois and Ana Mendieta among many others.



KS4 Recommendation:

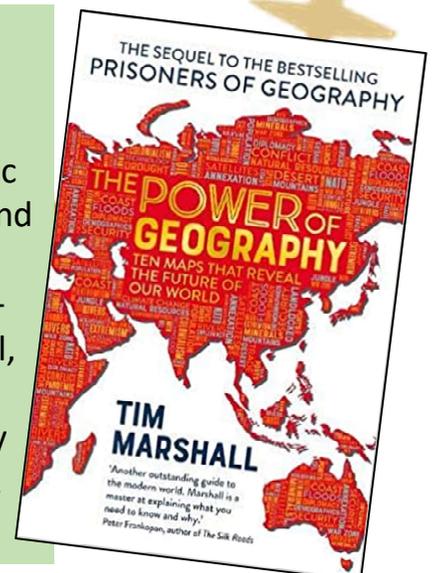
From Laura Bassi, an 18th-century Italian physicist, to Phyllis Wheatley, a pioneer of the Black American literary tradition, the book crosses the globe and the centuries to tell the stories which don't usually make the history books. It's a great addition to the "herstory" movement, with a list of recommended resources for readers to find out more about the lives of their favourite heroines.

Featuring a truly diverse range of women, and written in a chatty, engaging style, this book will inspire any young person to go out there and rock the world themselves.



Parent/Carer Recommendation:

The prequel to this book, Prisoners of Geography, was a bestseller thanks to the way that it so clearly identified the huge (and often undervalued) significance of those geographic staples (mountains, rivers, deserts, seas) in forming nations and alliances, and governing politics. Here, Tim Marshall returns with The Power of Geography, offering ten new case studies – Australia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, the UK, Greece, Turkey, the Sahel, Ethiopia, Spain and space. Once again, he demonstrates how his chosen states have been, and always will be, influenced by geography, although this time with a closer eye on the future.



Reading News

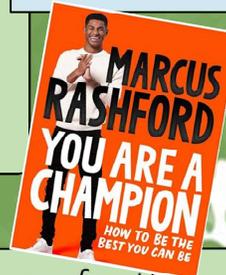
If your child finds themselves struggling to choose what to read next, check out the BookTrust's bookfinder service: [Bookfinder: find children's books for every age | BookTrust](#)



The **Summer Reading Challenge** encourages children to enjoy the benefits of reading for pleasure, and prevent the 'summer slide' that can happen over the long break. Create a profile, get rewards, play games, and earn badges as you discover books to read! **#summerofreading**

[Summer Reading Challenge](#)

Why not follow Marcus Rashford MBE, on social media? He is a reading advocate, and has just released his first book. He said: *"Enjoying reading can't just be a privilege; all children should be able to access books, no matter what their background. Having good literacy skills supports children to succeed in life and everyone should have the opportunity to discover a love of reading"*



QB Reading Groups are back with a vengeance for the remainder of the summer term! Is your child involved? With a wealth of book groups to choose from, there's something for everyone. Check out the 'Reading' section of the school website for more details: [A recognition focused school | Reading \(queensbridge.bham.sch.uk\)](#)

