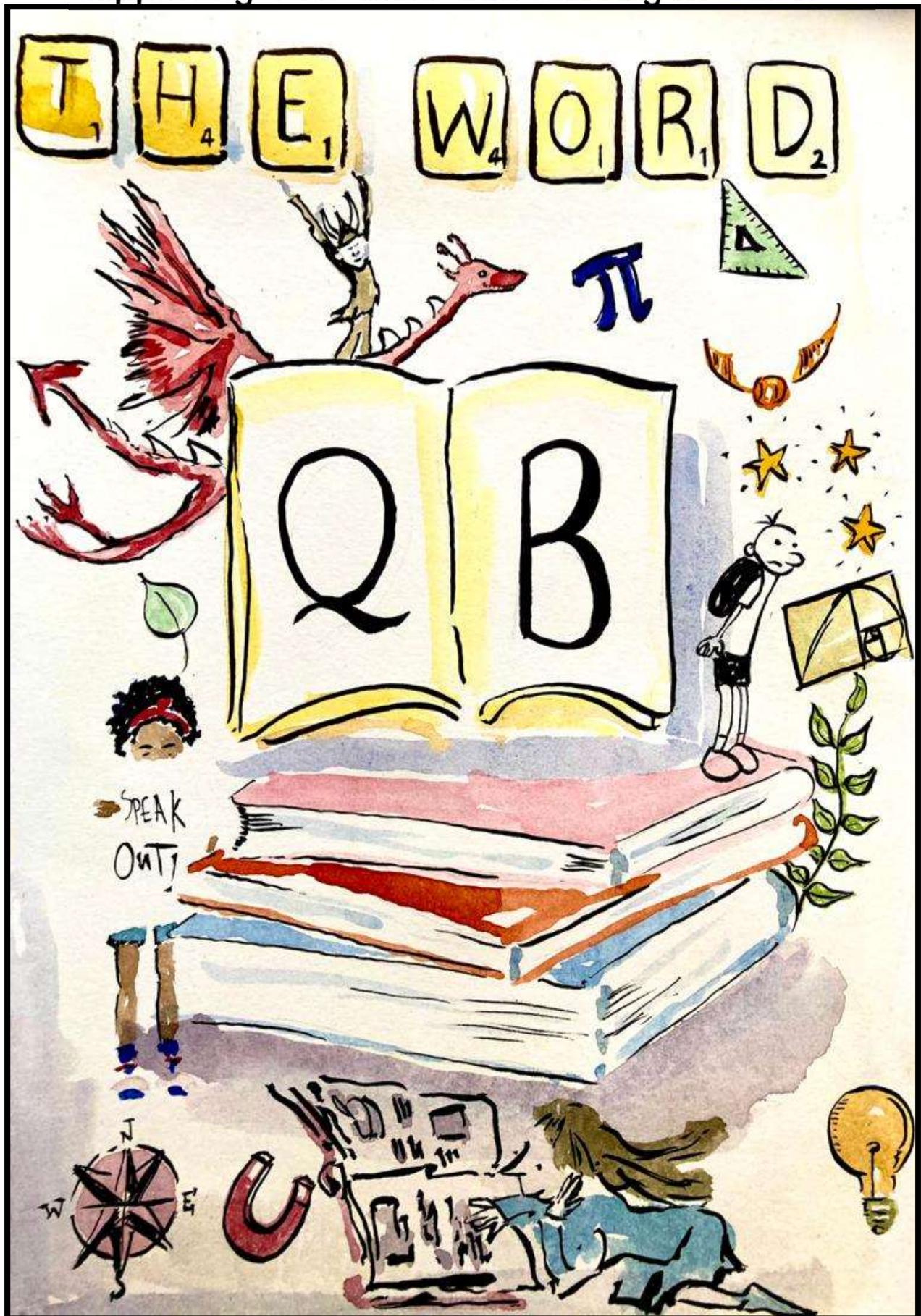


Supporting Your Child with Reading to Learn



July 2021

Welcome to July's edition of **The Word**

This month we focus on the importance of being a **reading role model** for your child. National Literacy Trust research tells us that even at age 16, parental interest in a child's reading is the single greatest predictor of achievement (2008). Simply asking your child about their reading habits is enough.

Contents

1. Top Tip 

2. Expert Opinions 

3. Staff Contribution 

4. Reading Recommendations 

5. Reading News  



As we get ready for the summer holidays, talk to your child about what they plan to read. Could you make a trip to the library or spend some time browsing SORA together? Create a tbr (to be read) summer pile! You could try some YA (Young Adult Fiction) and read the same thing...

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

 Twitter: @QbridgeLibrary

 Instagram: @qb_schlibrary



Top Tip #5

Let your child see you reading. Ask your child what they're reading and share what you read as a teen or what you're reading now.

The Reading Mother, Strickland Gillilan

I had a mother who read to me
Sagas of pirates who scoured the sea,
Cutlasses clenched in their yellow teeth,
“Blackbirds” stowed in the hold beneath.

I had a Mother who read me lays
Of ancient and gallant and golden days;
Stories of Marmion and Ivanhoe,
Which every boy has a right to know.

I had a Mother who read me tales
Of Gelert the hound of the hills of Wales,
True to his trust till his tragic death,
Faithfulness blent with his final breath.

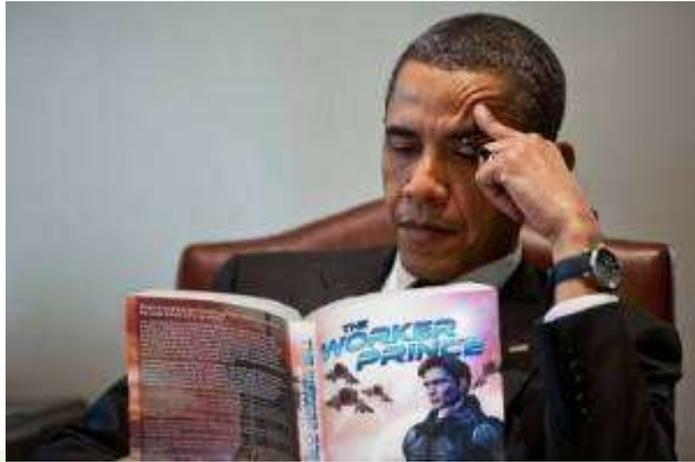
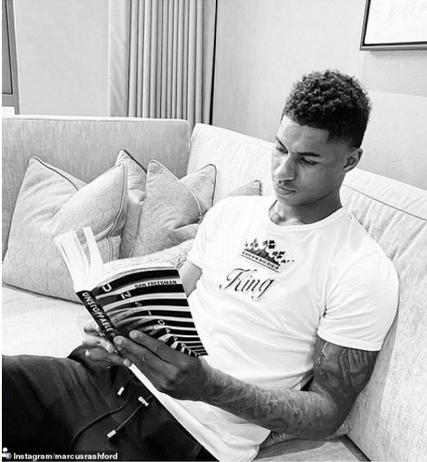
I had a Mother who read me the things
That wholesome life to the boy heart
brings –
Stories that stir with an upward touch,
Oh, that each mother of boys were such!

You may have tangible wealth untold;
Caskets of jewels and coffer of gold.
Richer than I you can never be –
I had a Mother who read to me.



Expert Opinion: Susan Elkin, The Guardian

Boys are generally less enthusiastic than girls to spend their time reading – but all they need are a few bookworm male role models



‘Boys need to see older males reading joyfully.’

A recent study has shown what every teacher and parent knew: most boys read less enthusiastically and thoroughly than girls. Sue Palmer, in her book *21st Century Boys* attributes this to brain development. Testosterone accelerates right brain growth and makes boys more interested in overview, movement and space for longer. The effects have now been confirmed in two [big studies led by Keith Topping](#), professor of education and social research at the University of Dundee.

So what can we do to stimulate the left brains of squirmy boys and get them reading with as much commitment as their sisters? Don't underestimate the power of example, for a start. Boys need to see older males reading joyfully – otherwise they risk writing it off as a “girly” thing. So that's down to dads and other male role models. Primary schools – female dominated environments, usually – should regularly invite in male authors, librarians and volunteers to talk about reading and share books. A footballer with a passion for books would be good, for instance.

Ah, football ... When I worked as a teacher-librarian in a challenging inner-city boys school I quickly learned to tap into their interests and show a real interest in them. Last week I gave a visiting seven-year-old boy a review copy I had of [Chris Hoy's](#) *On Your Bike*. He opened the book and disappeared into it, because bikes and cycling are his current “thing”. Of course, his parents are now encouraging the cycling *and* the reading.

There's much to be said for blocks of dedicated reading time, both in school and at home. Simply set aside half an hour when silence falls and every adult and child dives into a book of choice. It used to be called Eric (Everyone Reads in Class) and it's vital that “everyone” means exactly that, so that children see adults they respect immersed in reading. And don't worry if some boys choose “easy” material. You have to build the habit and reading stamina before you can start – very gently and unjudgmentally – trying to nudge them towards anything more challenging. We all read at different levels at different times, and boys are no different.

Staff Contribution

Poem discovered by Mr Shaqur, Head of Year

I opened a book and in I strode
Now, nobody can find me.
I've left my chair, my house, my road,
My town and my world behind me.

I'm wearing the cloak, I've slipped on a ring,
I've swallowed the magic potion.
I've fought the dragon, dined with a king
And dived in a bottomless ocean.

I opened a book and made some friends.
I shared their tears and laughter
And followed their road with bumps and bends
To the happily ever after.

I finished my book and out I came.
The cloak can no longer hide me.
My chair and my house are just the same.
But I have a book inside me.



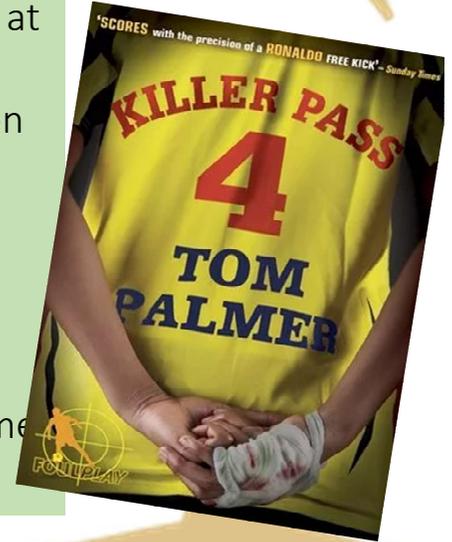
Reading Recommendations

KS3 Recommendation:

In recent months there has been a spate of burglaries at the houses of players from Danny's favourite football club. Danny wants to know who's behind it all and is on the case.

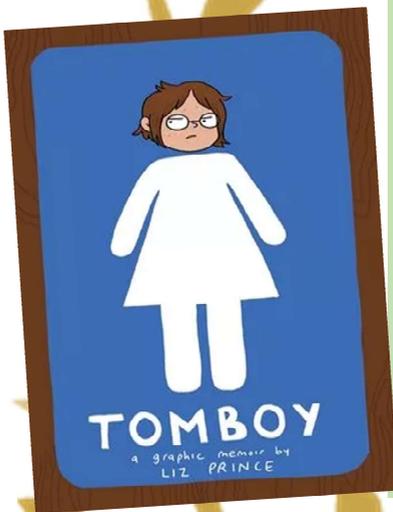
But after scouting out the crime scenes, there are newspaper reports of a young boy having been seen hanging around.

Danny needs to find out who's behind these crimes - and fast. If he doesn't, he might have turned from crime detective into the biggest suspect of them all...



KS4 Recommendation:

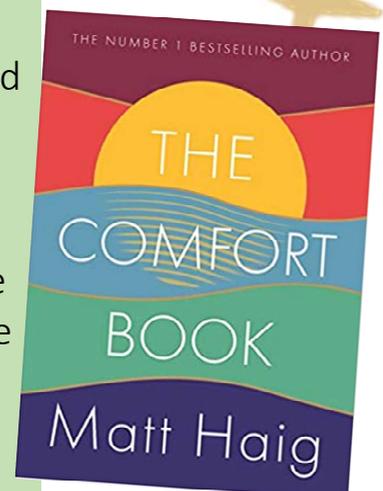
Growing up, Liz Prince wasn't a girly girl, dressing in pink tutus or playing Pretty Pretty princess like the other girls in her neighborhood. But she wasn't exactly one of the guys either, as she quickly learned when her Little League baseball coach exiled her to the outfield instead of letting her take the pitcher's mound. Liz was somewhere in the middle, and Tomboy is the story of her struggle to find the place where she belonged.



Parent/Carer Recommendation:

The Comfort Book is a collection of ideas learned in hard times and suggestions for making the bad days better. Drawing on maxims, memoir and the inspirational lives of others, these meditations celebrate the ever-changing wonder of living. This is for when we need the wisdom of a friend or a reminder we can always nurture inner strength and hope, even in our busy world.

A book of timeless comfort for modern minds.



Reading News

Staff have been enjoying the 'Staff Book Swap' which has been set up in the staff room! We have been bringing some of our favourite reads in to share with each other, leaving little notes and reviews behind. Reading is a nice way to connect with each other as we continue to miss socializing over a quick cuppa in the staff room.



Back Soon!

We're working hard behind the scenes to get our beloved school library ready for pupils in September. We've got some gorgeous new books and a lot of exciting ideas which we can't wait to share with you! Watch this space...

BOOKS2ALL

Our wonderful Ms Howe, Reading Engagement Coach, has written a blog post which has been published on 'Books 2 All', where she talks all about our lovely library. Find out how important the library is to us and why we do what we do to put reading and the library at the heart of QB: [How I made the school library the heart of our school - Books2All](#)



If your child is 13 or over, and uses TikTok, why not have a look at 'booktok' with them? Lots of young users are using this social media platform to share their favourite reads and upcoming releases. It's a great way for young people to discover new titles and feel engaged with online reading communities.

