

# Bury and Whitefield's Reading Newsletter



## Introduction

Welcome back to Bury and Whitefield's reading newsletter; your home for all things 'book-ish'. October brings the first newsletter of the new academic year so let's start fresh by reminding ourselves what this newsletter is for.

When I started this newsletter, I imagined it would be read by the whole family and contain something for everyone. With this in mind, I try to include books for all ages (including adults) to encourage all our BWJPS family to read. I also wanted it to be helpful, which is why there are different hints/ tips/ suggestions each month and a calendar of book related events for the whole family to enjoy. Most importantly, I wanted it to be a conversation. Books are extremely powerful when discussed and shared. Please continue the conversation with one another and with me! I am always looking for recommendations for books and ways to make this newsletter as useful as possible.

Spotted your child hooked on a book? Seen an article that you think other parents will find useful? Need a recommendation for your child? Send me a message, article, question or picture through to [c.pereira@bwjps.org.uk](mailto:c.pereira@bwjps.org.uk).

This month we celebrate Black History Month by returning to books with BAME characters or authors.

## Reading at BWJPS

At Bury and Whitefield, we understand the importance of reading and aim to develop fluent readers who not only can read but enjoy reading. These wish lists are frequently updated to avoid multiple copies being purchased and to ensure they consistently offer an up-to-date selection. As always, our wish lists can be found on your child's class page (on our school website) or in this newsletter.

EYFS: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/>

Y1: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/lis/2PS0FETXIL21C>  
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Y2: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/lis/YH5HJ18NF0LZ>  
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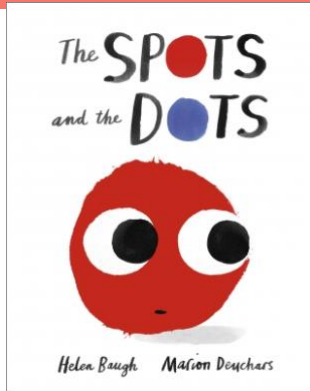
Y3: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/lis/3DZGBMFS8GM5V...>

Y4: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/lis/71EK0739YJCH>  
...

Y5: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/lis/Z5YGGCC81RM3>  
...

Y6: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/lis/3F3MPM8THCC EW...>

**“Reading is essential for those who seek to rise above ordinary.” Jim Rohn**



## EYFS Recommendation

### **The Spots and the Dots (Helen Baugh)**

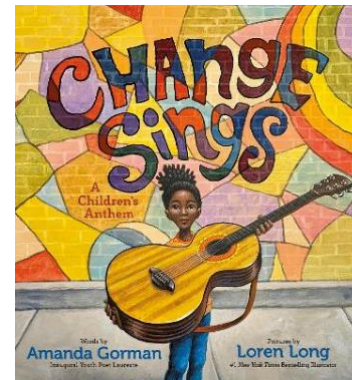
The Spots live on one side of the hill. The Dots live on the other. Both are fearful and suspicious of the other, but are they really all that different? When a young Spot and a young Dot meet at the top of the hill, they are about to find out...

Big, bold and bright, this picture book celebrates difference whilst encouraging children to find the similarities in others, not fear them. This rhyming text highlights the moral perfectly and can even be read back to front to change perspectives.

## Years 1 and 2 Recommendation

### **Change Sings (Amanda Gorman)**

As a young girl leads a cast of characters on a musical journey, they learn that they have the power to make changes – big or small – in the world, in their communities, and – most importantly – in themselves. An inspirational anthem of empowerment for all children created by combining the lyrical writing of Amanda Gorman, with the luminous illustrations from Loren Long. This is a must have for all children's book shelves.



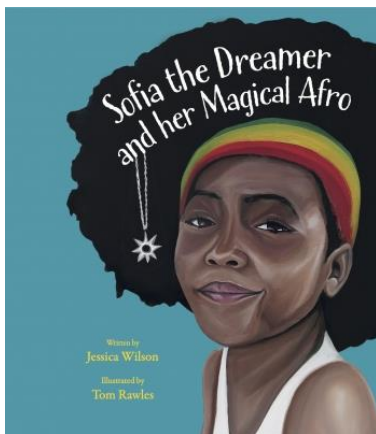
Personally, I was dazzled reading this book. It's moving, enjoyable and brilliantly written. The pictures alone strike conversation for the whole family to divulge in.

## Years 3 and 4 Recommendation

### **Sofia the Dreamer and her Magical Afro (Jessica Wilson)**

Every Sunday afternoon, Sofia's mum washes and combs her hair. Whenever her hair is touched, Sofia becomes very sleepy. Sofia travels in her dreams, visiting a Jamaican Rastafarian, African ancestor and Black Panther whose stories help to unpick the history, heroes and joys entangled in afro hair.

This poetic look at the history of natural hairstyles encourages children not to be afraid to be themselves, as we are taken on a journey through history and beyond our world to the realisation that love of one another is the basis of all.

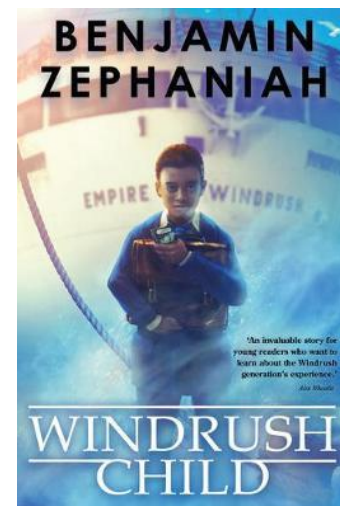


## Years 5 and 6 Recommendation

### **Windrush Child (Benjamin Zephaniah)**

Leonard is shocked when he arrives with his mother in the port of Southampton. His father is a stranger to him, it's cold and even the Jamaican food doesn't taste the same as it did back home. But his parents have brought him here to try to make a better life, so Leonard does his best not to complain, to make new friends, to do well at school – even when people hurt him with their words and their fists.

This carefully written account explores the society and racism that Leonard encounters in school and in 50s and 60s Manchester society. An extremely moving account of a child trying to find his place.



# Miss Pereira's Books of the Month



## Non-Fiction for the Family

### Weird but True! 2022 (National Geographic Kids) – 5+

This bulging compendium is loaded with all-new jaw-dropping, brain-bending facts and bright, bold photography! This year, it's even bigger with four brand new fact-packed chapters. It pairs the planet's weirdest facts with the coolest and strangest true stories. From strange rocks and baffling bridges to animal astronauts, ice marathons and awesome avocados.

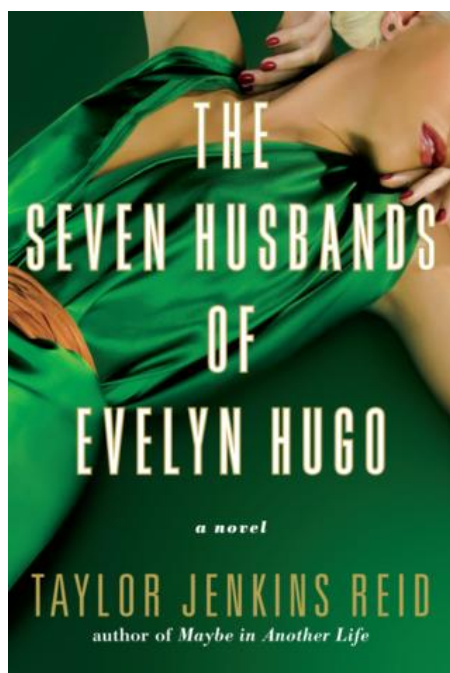
Whether you're a fan of weird words, foul food or yucky creatures, this 2022 children's annual is sure to entertain – and inform – the whole family. **WARNING:** This is the kind of book you pick up for 5 minutes and inf yourself totally engrossed. I genuinely laughed out loud at some of the bizarre elements of this world.

## Children's Fiction

### The Graveyard Riddle (Lisa Thompson) – 9+

Return to the wonderful characters of the best-selling, award-winning 'The Goldfish Boy.' Melody Bird has discovered an old abandoned house in the corner of the graveyard, and a mysterious boy hiding out there... Hal tells her that he's a spy-in-training, using the house as a base for his undercover surveillance of a known local criminal. Her friends, Matthew and Jake, don't believe that a teenager would be entrusted with this mission and turn the tables to spy on him; uncovering secrets and unravelling a mystery as they go.

Myself and Harry (Y6) are fans of Lisa Thompson's work and we were not disappointed. Once again, Lisa has allowed you to build a brilliant rapport with the characters to ensure you are thoroughly invested before digging into the meaty plot.



## Adult's Fiction

### The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo (Taylor Jenkins Reid)

Aging and reclusive Hollywood movie icon, Evelyn Hugo, is finally ready to tell the truth about her glamorous and scandalous life. But when she chooses unknown magazine reporter Monique Grant for the job, no one is more astounded than Monique herself. Why her? Why now?

Summoned to Evelyn's luxurious apartment, Monique listens in fascination as the actress tells her story. From making her way to Los Angeles in the 1950s to her decision to leave show business in the '80s, and, of course, the seven husbands along the way. Evelyn unspools a tale of ruthless ambition, unexpected friendship, and a great forbidden love. Monique begins to feel a very real connection to the legendary star, but as Evelyn's story nears its end, it becomes clear that her life intersects with Monique's own in tragic and irreversible ways.

This was hands-down my favourite read of the summer. Full of mystery, scandal and interesting insights, I couldn't put it down. Don't be fooled into thinking this is just another chick-flick; it is so much more. Read it now before the film comes out! **WARNING: Some illicit scenes; prepare for tears.**



“Show me a family of readers, and I will show you the people who move the world.” – Napoléon Bonaparte

## Importance of CHOICE

Some of you may know that I am currently completing a Masters Degree in Education. I am currently slogging away at a dissertation which centres around reading for pleasure and how teachers possibly influence or impact on children’s reading for pleasure habits. I have collected data from adults and children and have found some really interesting points so far – all shall be revealed in January.

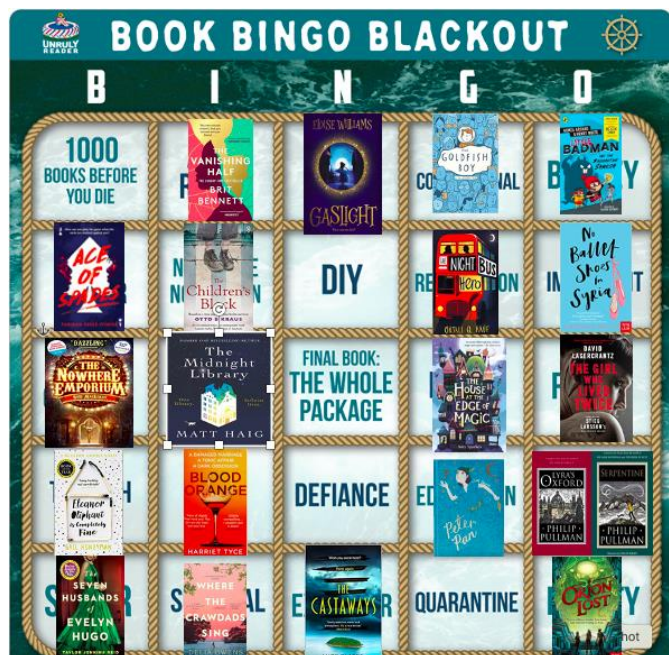
However, one of the key points that has resonated with me - due to both adults and children echoing the point – is **the importance of choice**. According to those I interviewed, choice is integral to children’s reading for pleasure habits. This may seem obvious, but how many times do we force books upon our children because we think they should read it? Because we enjoyed it at their age? Because somebody else’s child read it? We mean well but are we actually ‘putting them off’?

Choice means more than just letting them pick a book. It also means giving them the option to stop reading it if they decide it’s not for them. It means letting them decide what type of book to read (i.e. graphic novels, comics, magazines – not simply chapter books). Finally, it means letting them read books that we deem ‘easy’ or ‘silly’ to allow room for enjoyment. I know I enjoy the odd ‘trashy’ book every now and then so why not allow our children the same choice.

## Reading Challenge Update

Thanks to the summer break, I managed to read quite a few books; many of them adult books, which makes a change. Some of them didn’t quite fit any of the categories on my reading challenge but I wanted to mention them anyway:

- The Plot (Jean Hanff Korelitz) – Adult. Interesting concept, slow start, great end. (3/5)
- Trust Me (T.M.Logan) – Adult. Typical thriller, page-turner, great end. (3/5)



Category	Title	Rating
Anti-Racist	The Vanishing Half (Brit Bennett) - Adult	4/5
Black Author	Ace of Spades (Faridah Àbíké-Iyímídé) - YA	5/5
Russia	The Girl Who Lived Twice (David Lagercrantz) - Adult	3.5/5
Sugar	The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo (Taylor Jenkins Reid) - Adult	5/5
The Explorer	The Castaways (Lucy Clarke) - Adult	3.5/5

I am struggling to find a book which satisfies the ‘Defiance’ category (a book with protests as its central theme) so if you have any suggestions PLEASE get in touch! [c.pereira@bwjps.org.uk](mailto:c.pereira@bwjps.org.uk)

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.” – Dr. Seuss



## Jewish Studies Book of the Month

### A Hat for Mrs Goldman: A Story About Knitting and Love (Michelle Edwards) – 5+



Mrs. Goldman always knits hats for everyone in the neighborhood, and Sophia, who thinks knitting is too hard, helps by making the pom-poms. But now winter is here, and Mrs. Goldman herself doesn't have a hat—she's too busy making hats for everyone else! It's up to Sophia to buckle down and knit a hat for Mrs. Goldman. But try as Sophia might, the hat turns out lumpy, the stitches aren't even, and there are holes where there shouldn't be holes. Sophia is devastated until she gets an idea that will make Mrs. Goldman's hat the most wonderful of all.

Readers both young and old will relate to Sophia's frustrations, as well as her delight in making something special for someone she loves. A beautiful insight into making mitzvahs and helping others.

## Upcoming Events

### Libraries Week 4<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> October

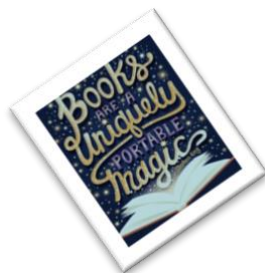
Libraries Week is an annual showcase and celebration of the best that libraries have to offer. Each year, they pick a theme and explore the innovative and surprising things that libraries are doing to support their communities. In 2021, Libraries Week will celebrate the nation's much-loved libraries and their vital role in the UK's book culture.

Follow [@ibrariesweek](https://twitter.com/ibrariesweek) to keep up to date on the 2021 campaign and join in the conversation at #LibrariesWeek.

### National Poetry Day 7<sup>th</sup> October

National Poetry Day generates an explosion of activity nationwide, thousands of amazing events across the UK – in schools, libraries, bookshops and hospitals, on buses, trains and boats – all celebrating poetry's power to bring people together. The 2021 theme is 'Enjoy, Discover, Share'.

Explore the numerous ways you can celebrate National Poetry Day [here](#). If you happen to do any of these, send them to me to feature in next month's newsletter.



Happy reading!  
*Miss Pereira*

