

# Bury and Whitefield's Reading Newsletter



## Introduction

Welcome back to Bury and Whitefield's reading newsletter; your home for all things 'book-ish'. Throughout November there are lots of events relating to keeping children physically, mentally and emotionally safe (Children in Need, World Diabetes Awareness Day and Anti-Bullying Week). Therefore this month's theme is children. The books chosen this month will be centred around children with differing needs as literature is an excellent way to explore these issues and make for great conversation starters. I hope you enjoy!

## 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. Thank you to all who have generously donated books from our class Amazon wish lists. Each class has been lucky enough to receive new books for their reading corners and all children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring these. These wish 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/ls/2PS0FETXIL21C...>

Y2: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/YH5HJ18NF0LZ...>

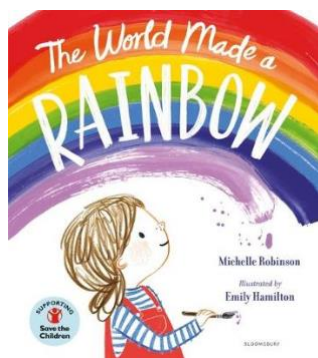
Y3: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/3DZGBMF58GM5V...>

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

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

Y6: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/3F3MPM8THCCEW...>

“A child who reads will be an adult who thinks.” - Unknown



## EYFS Recommendation

### **The World Made a Rainbow (Michelle Robinson)**

This lovely book is bursting with hope after a tough year for our little ones. Starring a young brother and sister, plus their sometimes frazzled parents, it describes the creation of a rainbow image for their window which brings back both happy and sad memories whilst reminding them of the really important things in life – family and friends. Beautiful illustrations and it rhymes!

## Years 1 and 2 Recommendation

### **Meesha Makes Friends (Tom Percival)**

Meesha loves making things and she is good at it. The one thing she doesn't know is how to make friends. So instead of playing with other children, Meesha makes some wonderful friends of her own (out of paper). But a real friend would be nice. Another fabulous and moving picture book from Tom Percival exploring the importance of friendship.



## Years 3 and 4 Recommendation

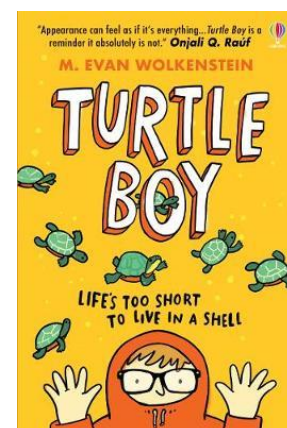
### **The Boy in the Jam Jar (Joyce Dunbar)**

Dylan can't hear as well as he used to be able to and he doesn't want to be different from his friends. As his hearing gets worse, he becomes more and more isolated from his friends. Luckily his dog, Pluto, is there to keep him down to Earth... This heart-warming story is perfect for developing readers and highlighting hidden struggles.

## Years 5 and 6 Recommendation

### **Turtle Boy (M. Evan Wolkenstein)**

12-year-old Will likes two things: turtles and the local nature reserve. Everything else is a nightmare because Will has a facial difference that has earned him an unfortunate nickname. But when Will's Bar Mitzvah community service project introduces him to RJ, a boy who is confined to a hospital room, Will discovers they both have strength to lend the other and that life is too short to live in a shell. A book filled with empathy, humour and knowledge about turtles!



# Authors of the Month

This month's theme for our newsletter is celebrating our differences and anti-bullying, hence the selection of books that centre around characters with unique aspects or concerns. I am very excited to have been able to include some wonderful authors in this newsletter, such as Michelle Robinson and Evan Wolkenstein. Upon hearing that they had been included, both authors were eager to share a message with the children, parents and staff of BWJPS.

## Michelle Robinson



**Michelle Robinson** ✍️

@MicheRobinson

There's nothing like escaping into your imagination by reading a book — or making up a story of your own.

(Add this if you need it longer!)  
Can you create a kooky character of your own and come up with a crazy adventure for them? Give it a go!



7:54 AM



Michelle Robinson is the best-selling, award-winning author of picture books including 'There's a Lion in my Conflakes' and the Goodnight Spaceman series. She has written over 40 books and loves to perform her stories, sometimes dressed as the characters. When she's not writing fabulous books, Michelle makes and edits videos;

## Evan Wolkenstein



**Evan Wolkenstein | TURTLE BOY**

@evanwolkenstein

Hello, BWJPS! This is Evan Wolkenstein, author of Turtle Boy. One thing I learned growing up: sometimes, the true resolution for bullying isn't simply stopping the bullying...it's coming to terms, accepting and loving about yourself the very things that brought about the unwanted attention in the first place. Loving yourself THROUGH the bullying takes courage and support, and young people can actually do that for their friends -- serving as mirrors for each other's beauty and light and inner power.



1:40 PM



Evan Wolkenstein is a high school teacher and writer. He attended the University of Wisconsin in Madison, the Pardes Institute for Jewish Studies, and Hebrew University. 'Turtle Boy' is his debut novel and he is extremely excited that it has found itself in our newsletter, all the way from San Francisco where he currently lives with his wife and daughter.

## Miss Pereira's Books of the Month



### Children's Fiction

#### **The House with Chicken Legs (Sophie Anderson)** – 9+

Marinka dreams of a normal life, where her house stays somewhere long enough for her to make friends. But her house has chicken legs and moves on without warning. The only people Marinka meets are dead; they disappear when her grandmother, Baba Yaga, guides them through The Gate. Marinka wants to change her destiny, but her house has other ideas...

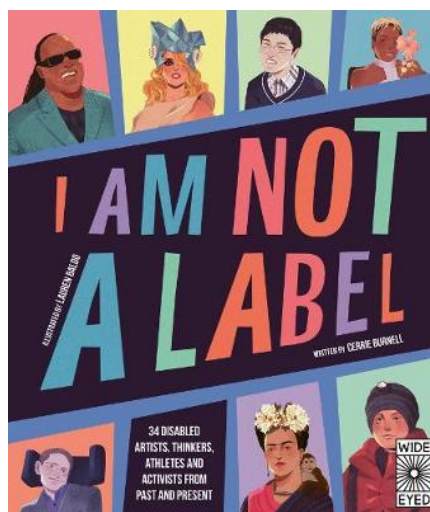
A story about finding your own destiny, even when your future seems written in the stars. I read this with my class over lockdown and each chapter left us wanting to read on. A captivating read with wonderful twists and turns throughout. Brilliant book!

### Children's & Adult's Non-Fiction

#### **I Am Not a Label (Cerrie Burnell)**

Consisting of 34 double-page spreads, one for each role model, and two special sections on mental health and 'invisible disabilities', Cerrie Burnell has put together a fascinating collection of inspiring stories. Meet a range of artists, thinkers, athletes and activists with disabilities, from past and present. From Frida Kahlo to Stephen Hawking, find out how these iconic figures have overcome obstacles, owned their differences and paved the way for others by making their bodies and minds work for them.

An empowering read for children and adults alike that will challenge your preconceptions of disability and mental health.

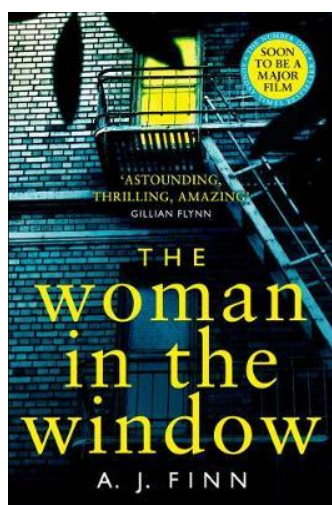


### Adult's Fiction

#### **The Woman in the Window (A.J.Finn)**

Anna Jones, a chronic agoraphobic, hasn't left her home in ten months. Her husband has left her, taking their daughter with him, so she spends her days binge-watching black and white films and roaming around her house like a ghost. Anna's one constant lifeline to the real world is her window, where she spends hours watching her neighbours. Until one evening when a scream rips across the silence and Anna witnesses something no one was supposed to see. Now she must do everything she can to uncover the truth but will anyone believe her? And can she trust herself?

A brilliantly gripping read full of twists and turns that keep you guessing at every page. Read it before the film is released later this year.



“There are many little ways to enlarge your child’s world. Love of books is the best of all...” – Jacqueline Kennedy

## Developing Inference through Reading

Inference is a particularly tricky skill that children tend to struggle with as it requires a wide range of knowledge and life skills. Inference is ‘reading between the lines’ to unpick information that has not been explicitly shared. Children are taught to do this in their own writing through ‘show not tell’ so this may be a good way of explaining inference to them.

Questions for inference may include:

- How does the character feel? How do you know?
- What was ... thinking when...?
- Who is telling the story?
- Find and copy a group of words which show that...

These questions usually focus on the character’s body language e.g. hunched shoulders to indicate sadness or shyness; looking away to indicate lying. Why not play emotion charades with your child to develop their understanding of body language and things they can infer from this.

## Widening Genres and Text Types

Research shows that children who say they don’t like reading don’t understand the wide variety of text types that are available.

You should utilise all reading resources to find what your child enjoys and allow them to be challenged by reading a variety of genres and contexts which will lead to a wider array of vocabulary. Texts such as:

- recipe books
- comics/ graphic novels
- newspapers/ magazines
- online blogs

are great ways of encouraging reading. I subscribe to The Week Junior (<https://theweekjunior.co.uk>) for my class and they love it, despite how challenging some of the vocabulary is!

However, there are lots of free resources available, such as:

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround>
- <https://www.moosiekidcomics.com>

## Feedback

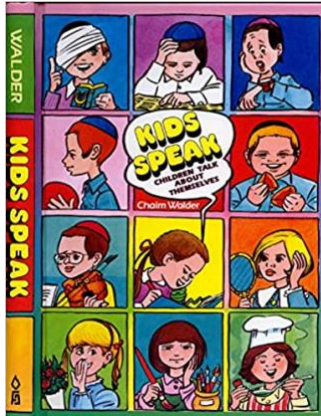
This section of the newsletter is for you – the parents and carers. It is a way of passing on tips and advice on how to help your child with their reading and comprehension skills. For this to be as useful as possible, please let me know if there is anything you would like to see in this section or any areas you are struggling with in particular.

Pop an email to [c.pereira@bwjps.org.uk](mailto:c.pereira@bwjps.org.uk) and I will be sure to include it in our next newsletter.

“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

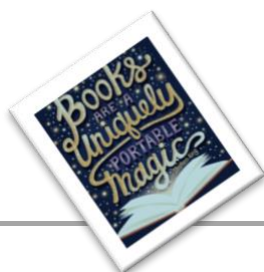


An easy read, and overall enjoyable book, teaching about other people’s feelings and our own too! Kids Speak is a collection of stories written by children aged 8-11 from all over the world, describing how they have dealt with a problem, their fears, and sharing their unusual experiences. Through these stories, children will learn to deal with their own problems, or turn to those who can help. Each story is short, relevant, interesting and entertaining.

## Upcoming Events

There are lots of fun, book-related events happening this month. Have a look at the list below and enjoy!

<p>November</p> <p>Blue Peter Book Award – shortlist announced</p>	<p>Since 2000, the enormously popular and influential Blue Peter Book Awards have been recognising and celebrating the best authors, the most creative illustrators and the greatest reads for children. The Blue Peter Book Awards celebrates children's books published in the last year in two categories: the Best Story and the Best Book with Facts.</p> <p><a href="https://www.booktrust.org.uk/what-we-do/awards-and-prizes/current-prizes/blue-peter-book-awards/#!?sortOption=AtoZ&amp;pageNo=1&amp;pageSize=16">https://www.booktrust.org.uk/what-we-do/awards-and-prizes/current-prizes/blue-peter-book-awards/#!?sortOption=AtoZ&amp;pageNo=1&amp;pageSize=16</a></p>
<p>1<sup>st</sup> November</p> <p>National Authors Day</p>	<p>Celebrate your favourite author by purchasing some of their books to support them. Own them all? Why not write a review or share your favourite book of theirs online using the hashtag #NationalAuthorsDay.</p>
<p>24<sup>th</sup> November</p> <p>Costa Book Awards – shortlist announced</p>	<p>The Costa Book Awards honours books written by authors based in the UK and Ireland. There are five categories: First Novel, Novel, Biography, Poetry and Children's Book, with one of the five winners chosen as Book of the Year. The winner is announced every January.</p> <p><a href="https://www.costa.co.uk/behind-the-beans/costa-book-awards/book-awards">https://www.costa.co.uk/behind-the-beans/costa-book-awards/book-awards</a></p>



Happy reading!  
*Miss Pereira*

