



Reading at FCC



A key priority at FCC is to **promote reading**.

In working to **increase reading ages**, we are providing our children with the best chance of **achieving well in all of their GCSEs**, ensuring they have the **literacy skills** to not only function, but to **thrive, in society**.

There are many key benefits of reading for school children, most notably:

- It is proven that children who read for pleasure do better in their GCSEs;
- Readers perform significantly better in Maths and Science;
- It increases general knowledge;
- Vocabulary is improved
- It promotes tolerance.

We firmly believe that reading forms part of a **healthy lifestyle**, alongside making **healthier food choices** and taking time to **exercise**.

We appreciate that not everyone, regardless of their age, may 'enjoy' reading and, for some, it will never become a hobby. This is okay! However, it is important to understand the benefits of reading and to try to fit in time to undertake some, just as we would with exercise (even if, like me, we'd prefer to sit on the couch with a box of chocolates!).

Some of the health benefits of reading include

- Reduced stress;
- Improved concentration and focus;
- Supporting healthy sleep cycles.

Bring your reading book to school daily!

All lesson for Years 7 – 10, across all subjects, begin with silent reading. This promotes the reading culture; ensures a consistent start to all lessons so students know what to expect; provides chance for de-escalation if needed; ensures a quiet, focused start to all lessons, ensuring all students are ready to learn.



Staff Reading:

Every member of staff at FCC has a little book sign on their door or in their classroom that shows what they are currently reading. Have a look and see whether it's a book, magazine, audiobook or podcast that you may enjoy (remember, these formats all constitute reading!).

Reading for as little as 6 minutes can



reduce stress by 60%, slow heart beat, ease muscle tension and alter your state of mind

Reading reduces stress:

68%

100%

300%

600%

more than:



Listening to music



Drinking a cup of tea



Going for a walk



Playing a video game

Reading
is for
Everyone!

Reading Recommendations

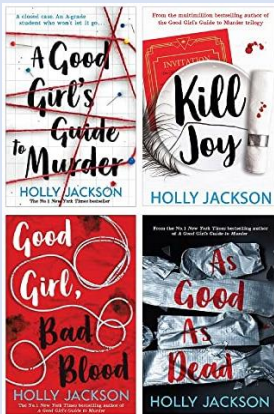
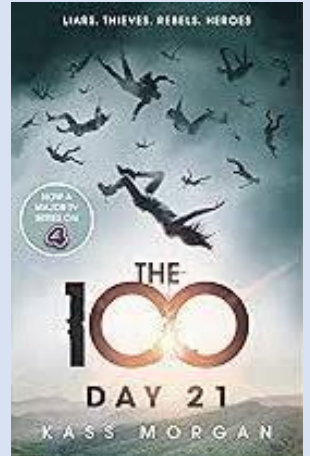
Recommended Reads for children

The 100 by Kass Morgan (reviewed by Megan, 11AMD)

The 100 is a fast-paced and action-filled book about 100 human criminals returning to Earth as a trial after thousands of years living in a spaceship after radiation makes it toxic to remain there. Their task is to see if it is safe to live on Earth again.

The book follows four main characters and their personal experience with the returning home: Clarke, who was arrested for treason, reveals the secrets of her parent's scientific work while keeping her own secrets. Wells risks his life and the lives of people on the ship to go to Earth in the hope to protect the girl he loves. Bellamy fights his way on to the transport pod and goes to Earth to look after his sister. Finally, Glass, who manages to escape the transport pod and stay on the ship to fix her mistakes after being arrested.

I constantly come back to this book as it is an easy, yet exciting, book designed to keep you hooked. I definitely recommend this book to anyone looking for a simple and relaxing read that is still entertaining. It will make you want to read the sequel!



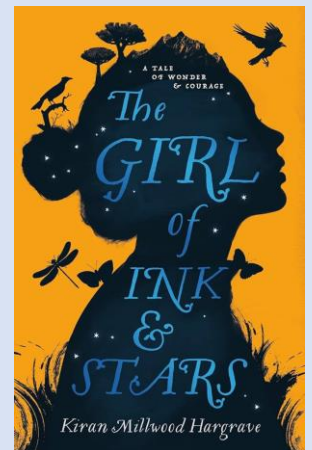
A Good Girl's Guide to Murder series by Holly Jackson (reviewed by Hollie, 9SH)

I really enjoyed this series as it was fun trying to figure out who did it. My favourite book from the series was As good As Dead as it was the most action packed. Pip is the main character and she is doing a homework project on a closed case, as the case was left without an answer. Throughout the series she investigates more cases but soon the case is about her...

I would definitely recommend this series but some might find the context upsetting.

The Girl Of Ink And Stars by Kiran Millwood Hargrave (reviewed by Emily, 8ATD)

My favourite book is The Girl of Ink And Stars by Kiran Millwood Hargrave. It is an exciting adventure story centring around a feisty female character and mysterious maps. I love how the author has threaded the story around a fantasy legend, and how she articulates the characters so they bloom on the page. My favourite character is Isabella, daughter of an imprisoned cartographer, who goes on a journey to find her missing best friend and unravel the mystery of the threat that darkens her island. At the heart of the story is the strength of friendship and how it can push people to do incredible things. If you like stories about legends, friendship and hidden secrets, this is the book for you!



Ready Player One by Ernest Cline (reviewed by Mr Surowiec)

I was never into computer gaming as a child, but this story has helped me to understand the important place that online gaming now has in the world. It is futuristic but also digs into the past, with some interesting reflections on how we are increasingly living in a virtual world.

Staff Reading

My Reading Experience:

Mr Dennett (Headteacher)

My mum was a primary school teacher, my primary school had a great culture of reading and our village library was really welcoming. This meant I was lucky enough to grow up devouring fiction and non-fiction. Those experiences and my encouraging secondary teachers set me on the route to an English degree and to becoming an English teacher.

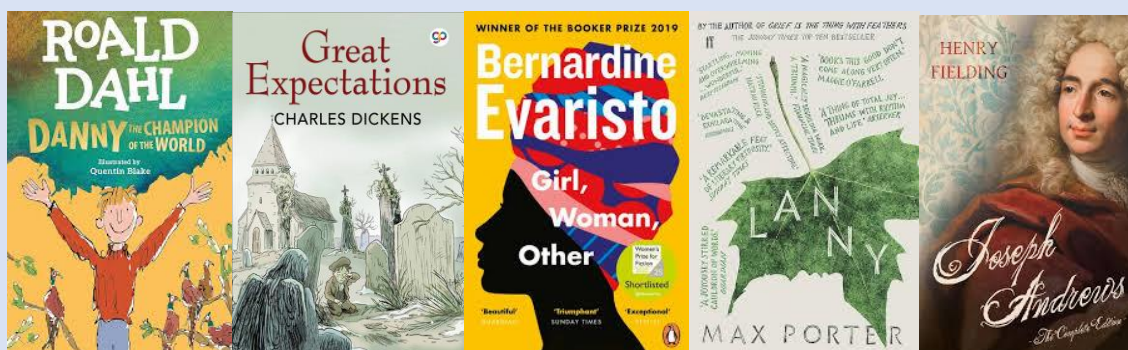
I read in the evenings and at the weekend, especially during the school holidays. I read to relax, to escape, to be engrossed, provoked and entertained. I prefer to read 'physical' books and really enjoy picking up a range of fiction, biography and poetry in charity shops.

Some of my favourite reading memories are of reading to and with my children and reading to classes as a teacher. A book really comes alive when shared in this way.

Some of my favourite books include Danny the Champion of the World by Roald Dahl, Great Expectations by Charles Dickens, Girl Woman Other by Bernadine Evaristo, Lanny by Max Porter and Joseph Andrews by Henry Fielding, the book that led to me becoming an English teacher and so had perhaps the biggest influence on my life. I look forward to discovering my next new favourite.

World Book Day 2021: Best costumes revealed...

11th March 2021



My Reading Experience:

Mr Surowiec (Deputy Headteacher)

When I started at Faringdon as Deputy Headteacher in January, I was so impressed to be joining a school which is really passionate about reading. Reading for pleasure is such an important thing to do. It makes us better people because whatever we read, we become more knowledgeable, more empathetic, and generally happier. This is my experience now, but sadly when I was a teenager it took me a long time to develop a passion for reading. My advice is that all you need to do is find the right books! In the 90s when I was at school, there was a lot less good literature for young people. But now, there are books about everything. So, whatever your passion - be it fishing, travel, football, cooking, nature, history, or just anything really - make some time to find books about it. And then you will start to enjoy reading!

The other thing you need to do is find out what works for you in terms of how and when to read. I love to read on a Kindle because they are so portable, but more recently I've gone back to reading paperbacks as I like supporting our local book shop. I read before going to sleep, because there aren't many other times during the day available!

Parent & Carer Reading

My Reading experience continued (Mr Surowiec)

I am very fortunate to have lots of readers in my family, who are always a source of good book recommendations. My two daughters love to read and so does my wife. Here are some recommendations from them.

Two recommendations from my 11 year old daughter:

The Murderer's Ape by Jakob Wegelius

'because it is just so unusual'

Orphans of the Tide 'because I just loved it!'

Three recommendations from my 14 year old daughter:

Shatter Me by Tahereh Mafi 'because it's about a romance where, if you touch one of the people, you die!'

The Gilded Ones by Namina Forna 'because it's my favourite book of all time. It is action packed and dystopian'

Run Rebel by Manjeet Man 'because it is about hard hitting issues'

A recommendation from my wife:

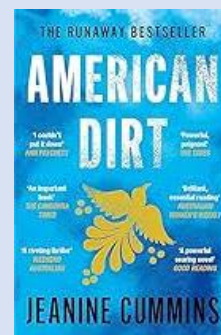
Still Life by Sarah Winman 'because it's an incredible tale of about art, history and love'.

Recommended Reads for Parents & Carers:

Mr Surowiec

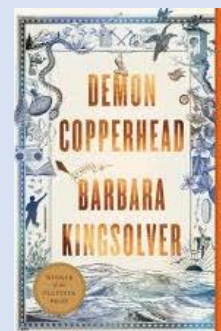
A book I have loved recently: **American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins**

This novel tells the story of a mother and her son who are forced to escape Mexico because of the actions of a violent drug cartel. You are taken on an incredibly emotional journey and you learn so much about what things are really like for the thousands of migrants who have no choice but to leave their beloved homes. I found myself praying that they would be ok – and I'm not even someone who prays!



What I am currently reading: **Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver**

This book tells the story of a child in America who is taken into care. The first person character is very funny but unfortunately has to become wise and careful well before he becomes an adult.



My favourite recent author: **Matt Haig**

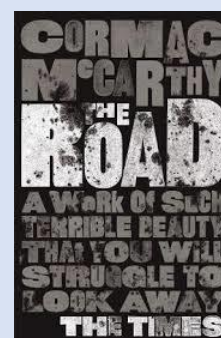
I can't wait for Matt Haig to write his next book. I love the way he bends your imagination. In "The Last Family in England", written from the perspective from a dog, you get an idea of just how ridiculous we humans are!

My favourite author of all time: **Ian McEwan**

I'm not keen on his recent books, but Ian McEwan writes brilliant historical fiction (my favourite genre), which educates you whilst taking you through all sorts of eerie and twisted journeys.

My favourite book of all time: **The Road by Cormac McCarthy**

I have no idea why this story of dystopia and catastrophe was the best read ever. Probably because it made me think very deeply!

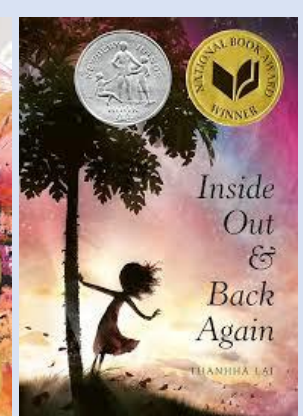
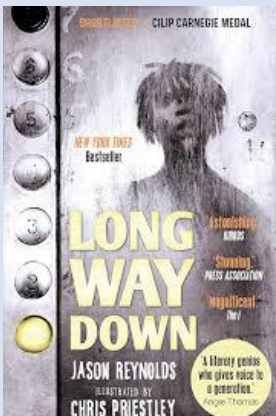
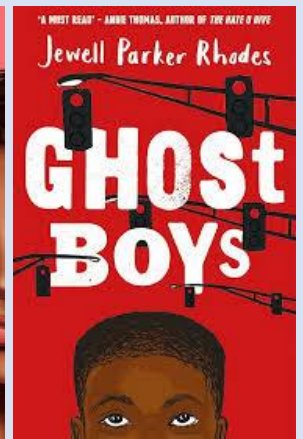
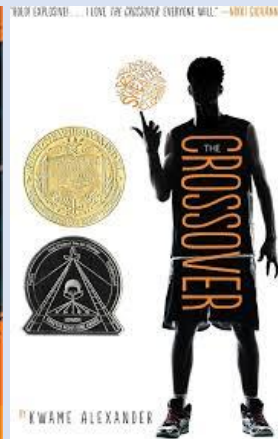
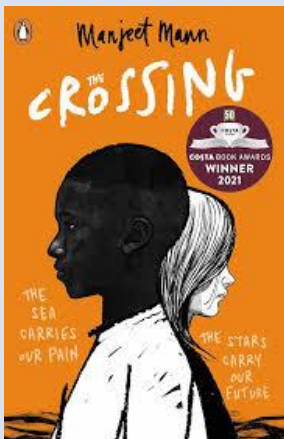


Reading Format Focus

Benefits of verse novels:

- Verse novels can be much more accessible to reluctant readers than prose.
- They can support a child's understanding and appreciation of poetry, which was otherwise not present.
- Challenging and important ideas can be shared in an easier to comprehend format.
- Children can finish a book much more quickly than if reading prose: this is great for those children who struggle to read and therefore rarely get the sense of achievement of completing a whole novel.
- Voices from other cultures and groups can be more easily heard, developing a sense of empathy in our children of others.

Verse Novels



Information

How to check whether the book your child is reading is age appropriate:

Check **Amazon** – the ‘product details’ nearly always contains this information.

Check ‘Reviews’ on [Goodreads](#).

Quick tip for improving reading:

When watching programmes either on the TV, tablet or other device, have **subtitles** on.

This is proven to support children’s reading development.



Everest Experience Writer In Residence

Matt Dickinson is joining us for the 2024-25 academic year to support our reading and literacy focus across the school.

In addition to supporting a group of Y8 students with their literacy skills, he will be presenting a session to every year group on an aspect of their curriculum.

Keep an eye out for more updates on the screens around school.

Product details

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Lexile Measure: 810L (What's this?)

Series: Prosper Redding

Hardcover: 368 pages

Publisher: Disney-Hyperion (September 5, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1484778170

ISBN-13: 978-1484778173

Product Dimensions: 6.2 x 1.2 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: ★★★★★ 61 customer reviews

Amazon Best Sellers Rank: #7,031 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)

#36 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > **Multigenerational**

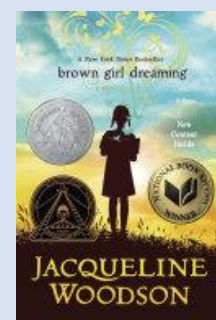
#334 in Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > **Fantasy & Magic**

#495 in Books > Children's Books > **Action & Adventure**



Black History Month

Our related reading recommendation to celebrate Black History Month is **Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson**.



Brown Girl Dreaming is a 2014 adolescent verse memoir written by Jacqueline Woodson. It tells the story of the author’s early childhood life growing up as an African American girl in the 1960s and depicts the events that led her to become a writer. The book has been considered one of the exemplary pieces of modern children’s literature by critics who have analysed the book and has gained positive reception. It has won multiple awards, including a Newbery Honor.

The book is written in free verse and haiku so is a great example of a verse novel.

Reading Ambassadors

We will soon be re-launching our reading ambassador programme. If you are interested in joining the ambassadors, keep an eye out on the Google Classroom Reading page for your year group for the post that will allow you to express your interest.

Author Focus: Matt Dickinson

Matt is an award-winning film maker, author and mountaineer. His biggest achievement is successfully summiting Mount Everest in 1996. He has written a number of fiction and non-fiction books, most notably The Everest Files series and Mortal Chaos series (both sets are available in the library), as well as The Popcorn-Eating Squirrels series for younger readers.

