



FBA Reading Radar

APRIL 2024



WELCOME TO OUR LATEST NEWSLETTER!

A Word From Our Reading Leaders

Through the FBA Reading Radar, we hope to inspire and empower every student to embrace the joys of reading, to explore new genres and discover a range of authors.

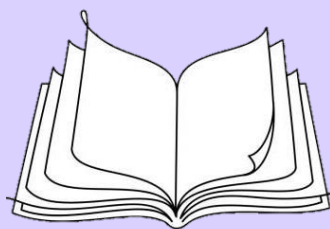
Happy Reading!

Miss Richardson & Miss Meredith

APRIL'S AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT



Elle McNicoll is a debut children's author from Scotland, now living in East London. As a neurodivergent writer, she is passionate about disability rights and representation and assists as a mentor for neurodivergent students at UCL. When she isn't writing fiction, she works as an editor and in her spare time, makes colourful chokers for friends to wear. *A Kind of Spark* is her first novel and has recently been adapted into a TV series on CBBC!



WE HAVE A WINNER!

Congratulations to Gazi Nazafarin Zaki in Year 9 for winning the Havering Libraries National Poetry Day 2023 competition!

The competition was held last October and winners were announced this month. Gazi created an original poem on the theme of 'Refuge'. This a huge achievement and we couldn't be prouder of her. Please enjoy her thought-provoking poem below.

Gray

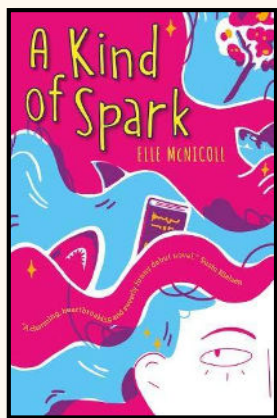
The tears from your eyes fall like rain
and that I wish I could take away your pain.
Oh your youthful heart how could you ever bear
this strain?
Is it the warmth of your home or the sun's ray?
Was life ever this gray?

A land filled with grace
now a place,
you could never embrace the sandy lakes.
Nor the warm neighbourhood cookies
And definitely not the sun's ray.
Did life ever seem this gray?

You walk inside like its fate.
Within each tarp, a story inflates.
Of a world hat's full of hope and light
where the nights are warm and the days are
bright
because that is where your heart longs to be.
So let it be.
Let your heart embrace these new days,
and never go back to the world full of grays.

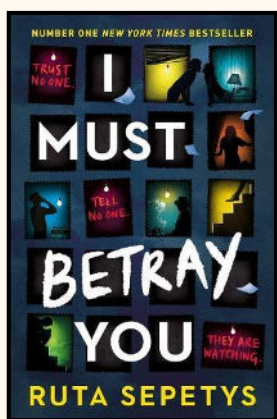


KEY STAGE 3 RECOMMENDED READS



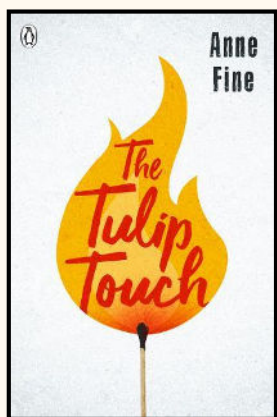
A KIND OF SPARK – ELLE MCNICOLL

A Kind of Spark tells the story of 11-year-old Addie as she campaigns for a memorial in memory of the witch trials that took place in her Scottish hometown. Addie knows there's more to the story of these 'witches', just like there is more to hers. Can Addie challenge how the people in her town see her, and her autism, and make her voice heard?



I MUST BETRAY YOU– RUTA SEPETYS

Cristian has lived his entire life in the grip of a repressive dictatorship. The country is governed by fear. When the secret police blackmail him, Cristian has an impossible choice. Save the life of his sick grandfather by informing on his family, or risk his life - and all of theirs - by resisting?



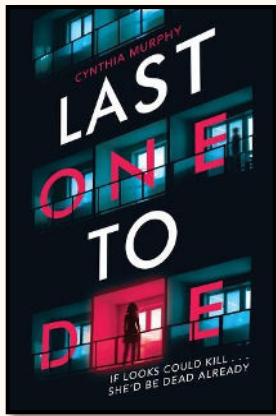
THE TULIP TOUCH– ANNE FINE

Nobody wants Tulip in their gang. She skives off school, cheeks the teachers and makes herself unpopular with her classmates by telling awful lies. None of this matters to Natalie who finds Tulip exciting. At first she doesn't care that other people are upset and unnerved by Tulip's bizarre games, but as the games become increasingly sinister and dangerous, Natalie realises that Tulip is going too far. Much too far...

Do you have any recommendations?
Scan the QR Code and send them in!

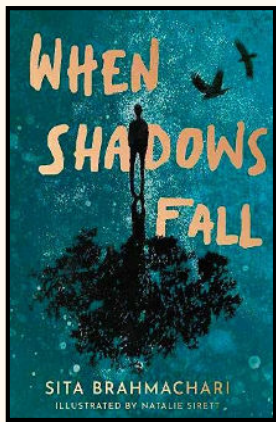


KEY STAGE 4 RECOMMENDED READS



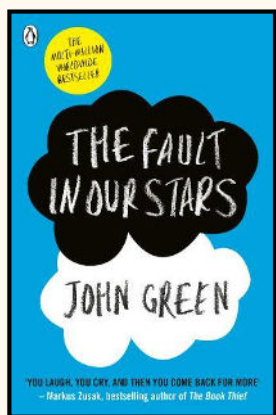
LAST ONE TO DIE – CYNTHIA MURPHY

Young, brunette women are being attacked in London. 16-year-old, Niamh has just arrived for a summer of freedom, and quickly discovers that the girls being attacked look frighteningly similar to her. But Niamh is determined not to let her fear destroy her summer. But can her new friends be trusted? Will she be able to stay ahead of the attacker? Or will she be next?



WHEN SHADOWS FALL— SITA BRAHMACHARI

Kai, Orla and Zak grew up together and they have big plans for their future – until Kai's family suffers a huge loss. Trying to cope with his own grief, as well as watching it tear his family apart, Kai is drawn into a new and more dangerous crowd, until his dreams for the future are a distant memory...



THE FAULT IN OUR STARS— JOHN GREEN

"I fell in love the way you fall asleep: slowly, then all at once."

Despite the tumour-shrinking medical miracle that has bought her a few years, Hazel has never been anything but terminal, her final chapter inscribed upon diagnosis. But when a gorgeous plot twist named Augustus Waters suddenly appears at Cancer Kid Support Group, Hazel's story is about to be completely rewritten.

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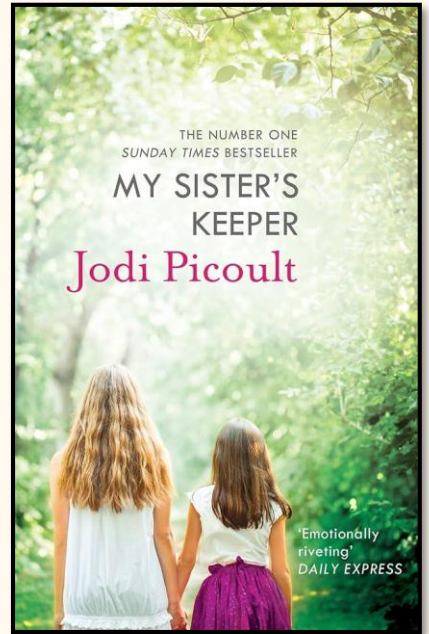


BOOK OF THE MONTH!

This month we are commemorating the 20th Anniversary of a novel that has captivated hearts and minds around the world:

"My Sister's Keeper" by Jodi Picoult.

"My Sister's Keeper" follows the poignant journey of the Fitzgerald family as they navigate the ethical and emotional turmoil surrounding the life of their daughter, Anna, conceived as a genetic match to her sister, Kate, who is battling leukaemia. As Anna grapples with her own identity and autonomy, the family is thrust into a heartbreaking legal battle that forces them to confront the deepest bonds of love and sacrifice.



This thought-provoking and emotionally resonant tale continues to leave an indelible mark on readers, challenging our perceptions of family, love, and the complexities of moral dilemmas. Jodi Picoult's masterful storytelling invites us to explore the intricacies of medical ethics, the fragility of human relationships, and the enduring power of hope in the face of adversity.

As we celebrate this modern classic, we invite you to join us in revisiting this remarkable novel, or experiencing it for the first time, as we delve into its themes, characters, and enduring relevance in today's world.

Did you know that a film based on the novel was released in 2009?

