



FBA Reading Radar

MAY 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

MAY'S AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT

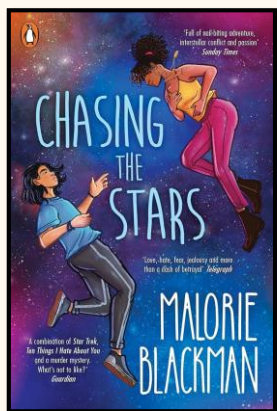


Angie Thomas burst onto the literary scene with her ground-breaking debut novel, "The Hate U Give" which tackles important issues such as racial injustice, police brutality and activism. Following the success of "The Hate U Give" Thomas continued to make waves with her second novel, "On the Come Up" which follows the journey of aspiring rapper Brianna Jackson as she navigates the challenges of pursuing her dreams while confronting systemic inequalities.

Thomas' writing is both impactful and relatable, drawing readers into the lives of her characters and sparking important conversations about social justice and equity.

"What's the point of having a voice if you're gonna be silent in those moments you shouldn't be?"

KEY STAGE 3 RECOMMENDED READS



CHASING THE STARS — MALORIE BLACKMAN

Olivia and her twin brother, Aidan, are heading alone on their ship back to Earth following the virus that completely wiped out their crew, and their family in its entirety. Nathan's ship is heading in the opposite direction, but on the journey it is attacked. Only a few survive. When their lives suddenly collide, Nathan and Olivia are instantly attracted to each other, deeply, completely head over heels.

But not everyone is pleased. Surrounded by rumours, deception, even murder, is it possible to live out a happy-ever-after...?



A QUIET KIND OF THUNDER — SARA BARNARD

She doesn't talk. He can't hear. They understand each other perfectly.

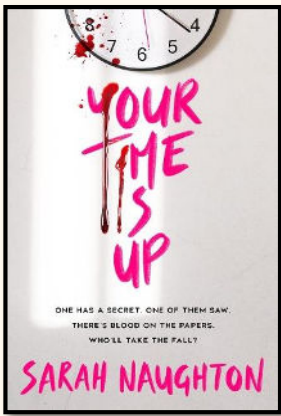
Steffi has been a selective mute for most of her life — she's been silent for so long that she feels completely invisible. But Rhys, the new boy at school, sees her. He's deaf, and her knowledge of basic sign language means that she's assigned to look after him. To Rhys it doesn't matter that Steffi doesn't talk and, as they find ways to communicate, Steffi finds that she does have a voice, and that she's falling in love with the one person who makes her feel brave enough to use it.

A perfect read to acknowledge 'Deaf Awareness Week' (6th May — 12th May)

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



KEY STAGE 4 RECOMMENDED READS



YOUR TIME IS UP — SARAH NAUGHTON

One has a secret, one of them saw, there's blood on the papers, who'll take the fall?

Zaina never meant to get involved. The plan was always to focus on her exams, make her dad proud. But none of this is what she'd planned for. Chanelle never made it to the exam: Nero's convinced he saw something last night and Ysla can't stop crying. As Zaina starts to scratch the surface of secrets which desperately want to stay hidden she begins to wonder ... how far will they go to keep her from the truth?

Coming soon! Published on 9th May!



NEVER LET ME GO — KAZUO ISHIGURO

Hailsham seems like a pleasant English boarding school, far from the influences of the city. Its students are well tended and supported, trained in art and literature, and become just the sort of people the world wants them to be. But, curiously, they are taught nothing of the outside world and are allowed little contact with it.

Within the grounds of Hailsham, Kathy grows from schoolgirl to young woman, but it's only when she and her friends Ruth and Tommy leave the safe grounds of the school (as they always knew they would) that they realize the full truth of what Hailsham is.

Do you have any recommendations?
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BOOK OF THE MONTH!

This month, we're thrilled to shine a spotlight on "The Hate U Give" by Angie Thomas, a powerful and timely novel that demands to be heard.

This story follows Starr Carter, a sixteen-year-old who witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood friend, Khalil, at the hands of a police officer. As Starr grapples with grief, anger, and fear, she finds herself thrust into the spotlight, torn between speaking out for justice and protecting her own safety.

Through her gripping storytelling and vivid characters, Thomas challenges readers to confront uncomfortable truths about systemic racism and the ways it impacts communities of colour.

Despite its weighty subject matter, "The Hate U Give" is ultimately a story of resilience, courage and the power of voice. It's a call to action, reminding us that silence only perpetuates injustice and that change begins with speaking out and standing up for what is right.

Content Warning: Before diving into this important novel, we want to provide a content warning for parents. "The Hate U Give" confronts difficult and sensitive topics, including racial injustice, police brutality, violence and trauma. While these themes are crucial for fostering understanding and empathy, they may be challenging for younger readers. We recommend that parents consider the maturity level and emotional readiness of their daughters before delving into this book.

