

APRIL 2026 EDITION

HENDON SCHOOL

# LIBRARY NEWSLETTER



## Parents Coffee Morning – “Reading”



### ***Promoting a global reading culture at Hendon School!***

On April 28th, we welcomed parents into our library for a coffee morning focused on **“Reading”**. With 2026 being the National Year of Reading, the event offered a relaxed opportunity to share how our school promotes and supports reading across our community. The session was a joint initiative between the **Library**, the **Literacy Lead** and the **Head of EAL**. We discussed the **benefits** of

reading, practical **literacy strategies, library initiatives and collections**, and ways families can support **reading at home**. We also highlighted **EAL support**, including the value of reading in a student’s first language. It was a pleasure to speak directly with parents and answer questions about our library collection, projects and goals. A huge **thank you** to everyone who attended – *and a special thanks to Helen and Nabil for their collaboration!*

# New Reading Lists available for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4



**Want to get into reading but don't know where to start?**

That's what our **reading lists** are for! **Newly updated** with diverse, inclusive and engaging titles, we hope to inspire *all* students **from Year 7 to 11** to find their next favourite story across **all genres**.

For the **full reading lists** [click on the underlined links](#) or visit the "Library" page on the **Hendon School website** (see extracts below). Any questions, interest, suggestions? Email us or pop by the Library!

## Key Stage 3:

### ADVENTURE

- [Alex Rider \(Series\)](#), A. Horowitz
- [The Song Walker](#), Z. Bethell
- [Song for a Whale](#), L. Kelly
- [Treasure Island](#), R.L. Stevenson
- [The Boy Who Hit Play](#), C. Daykin
- [Where the River Runs Cold](#), S. Brahmachari
- [Holes](#), L. Sachar
- [Clean Getaway](#), N. Stone
- [The Girl Who Speaks Bear](#), S. Anderson
- [The Brotherhood of Pirates](#), W. Gilkerson
- [Journey To The River Sea](#), E. Ibbotson
- [Wolf Brother](#), M. Paver



## Key Stage 4:

### FANTASY

- [Scythe \(Series\)](#), N. Shusterman
- [Medusa](#), J. Burton
- [The Deathless Girls](#), K. Millwood Hargrave
- [The Lord Of The Rings](#), J.R.R. Tolkien
- [Northern Lights](#), P. Pullman
- [Powerless](#), L. Roberts
- [Heir Of Fire](#), S. J. Maas
- [At The World's End](#), C. Fisher
- [The Vampire Diaries \(Series\)](#), L.J. Smith
- [Lionheart Girl](#), Y. Badoe
- [Midwinterblood](#), M. Sedgwick
- [The Bone Dragon](#), A. Casale




**To view full reading lists on the Hendon School Website click here.**


## Carnegie Book Awards: Students' Reviews


Check out our Carnegie Shadowing group's thoughts on the 2026 Writing Shortlist so far!



 "Birdie is a very emotional and heartfelt book. It explores the theme of sharing bonds with animals, the horse playing a big role in Birdie's life (the main character). It's very gentle and meaningful and **I would recommend this book to any animal lover.** Birdie is very interesting and determined with a strong connection to nature. This book is a touching and easy-to-read story about **resilience, compassion and the special connection between humans and animals.**" - Danilo



 "Ghostlines is an emotional story about a girl who goes on **a journey full of excitement and adventure.** I liked how the author described the setting - it made it easy to imagine being there. **The main character felt real and brave, even when things were difficult.**" - Anowshka

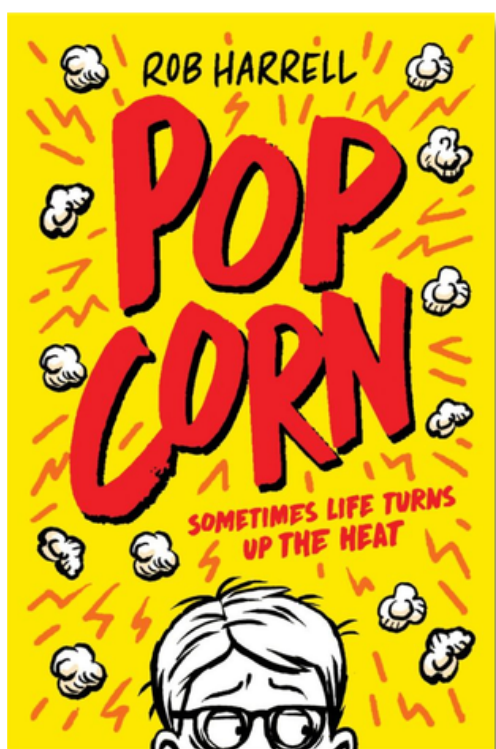
 "By the end of the story, the main characters grow emotionally. They realise that **home is not just a place but also the people and memories connected to it.**" - Akshaya

## Carnegie Book Awards: Students' Reviews



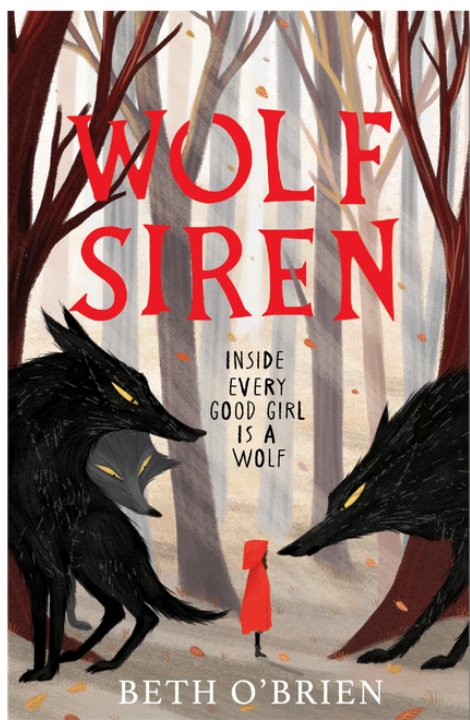
💣 This book is set in **WWI**. The main character, Stephen, works on the front lines. He then meets Danny who he falls in love with, giving him the will to live. **I can see history lovers enjoying this book!** – Victoria

🌈 "I liked how this book's setting linked to what I learnt in my History lesson, with specific terms like "no man's land", "front line", "duck board", etc. I also really enjoyed the creative writing style of the author. **This book taught me how I could be someone I truly want to be, and in any dark moment loving someone is the key.**" – Koto

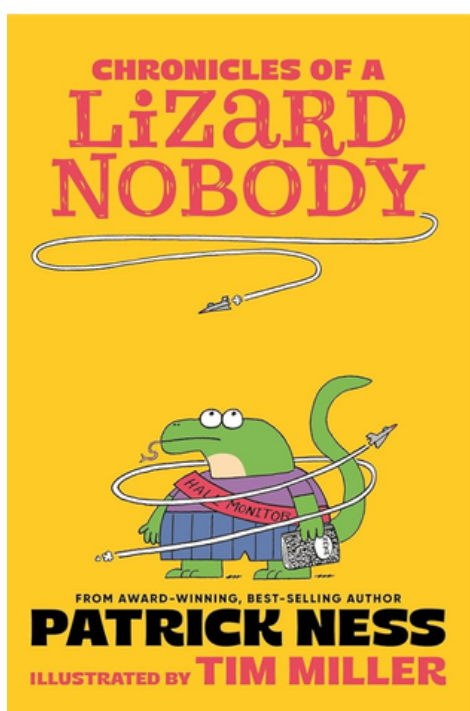


🍿 "Pop Corn is about a school boy called Andrew Yaeger who deals with **anxiety**. He tries to get through the **regular challenges of a school day** without damaging his new start (as he needs to look cool for picture day). He will make it! I really enjoyed this book because it's very realistic and easy to read, and I would recommend it to people between 10-12 years old. It just makes me think of a real school day with lots of exciting events hitting you one after the other." – Marco

## Carnegie Book Awards: Students' Reviews



🐺 "Wolf Siren is about a girl, Red, who challenges the rules of her community to **uncover mysteries about wolves and her past**. Since **Red is blind** (which I liked because it's rare for a main character) all the scenes are described in an interesting way. This allowed me to actually imagine what Red's eye are catching. **The themes are identity, overcoming fear and community control**. I recommend this book to fantasy lovers and people who like bits of thrill and mystery." – **Koto**



🦎 "This book is not just about lizards, it talks about **real-life problems like discrimination, poverty and the challenges associated to being different**. The book perfectly illustrates these problems in a **cartoon style**. Pelicarnassus was the main villain, and the author used carefully crafted sentences to draw comparisons with social inequalities. The book was quite fun to read!" – **Demetre**

📖 "Chronicles of a Lizard Nobody was **very interesting and easy to read** – it only took me 2 days!" – **Vlera**

# FREE & ONLINE RESOURCES

Click on the [hyperlinks](#) to access the websites.

**BBC Bitesize**: free revision and learning games and resources.

**Book Trust**: here, use Bookfinder to browse through book recommendations, Writing Tips for advice from well-known authors, and more!

**Carnegies Award website**: information on the 2026 shortlist, shadowing events and free downloadable reading resources.

**Earth Day website**: environmental education toolkits, at-home activities and reading lists for all ages.

**JSTOR**: register for a free account and access up to 100 free academic articles per month and a wide range of open access resources – indispensable for any post-A-Level studies!

**National Literacy Trust's "Words For Life - Zone in"**: practical tips on boosting reading, writing, speaking and listening skills for young people.

**National Year of Reading Website**: info on local and national events, free downloadable resources and book lists recommendations.

**Explore**: made by the university of Oxford, this website presents debate questions and free resources that encourage critical thinking.

**Physics and Maths Tutor**: free revision courses and past papers, great to prepare for GCSEs and A-Levels!

**Reading Well For Teens**: health and well-being experts put together book recommendations, digital resources and exercises to help young people with their mental health (e.g.: confidence, anxiety, neurodiversity, grief, body image, depression, navigating LGBTQ+ identities, etc.).

**Young Writers**: information on national writing competitions and free downloadable reading resources for all abilities.