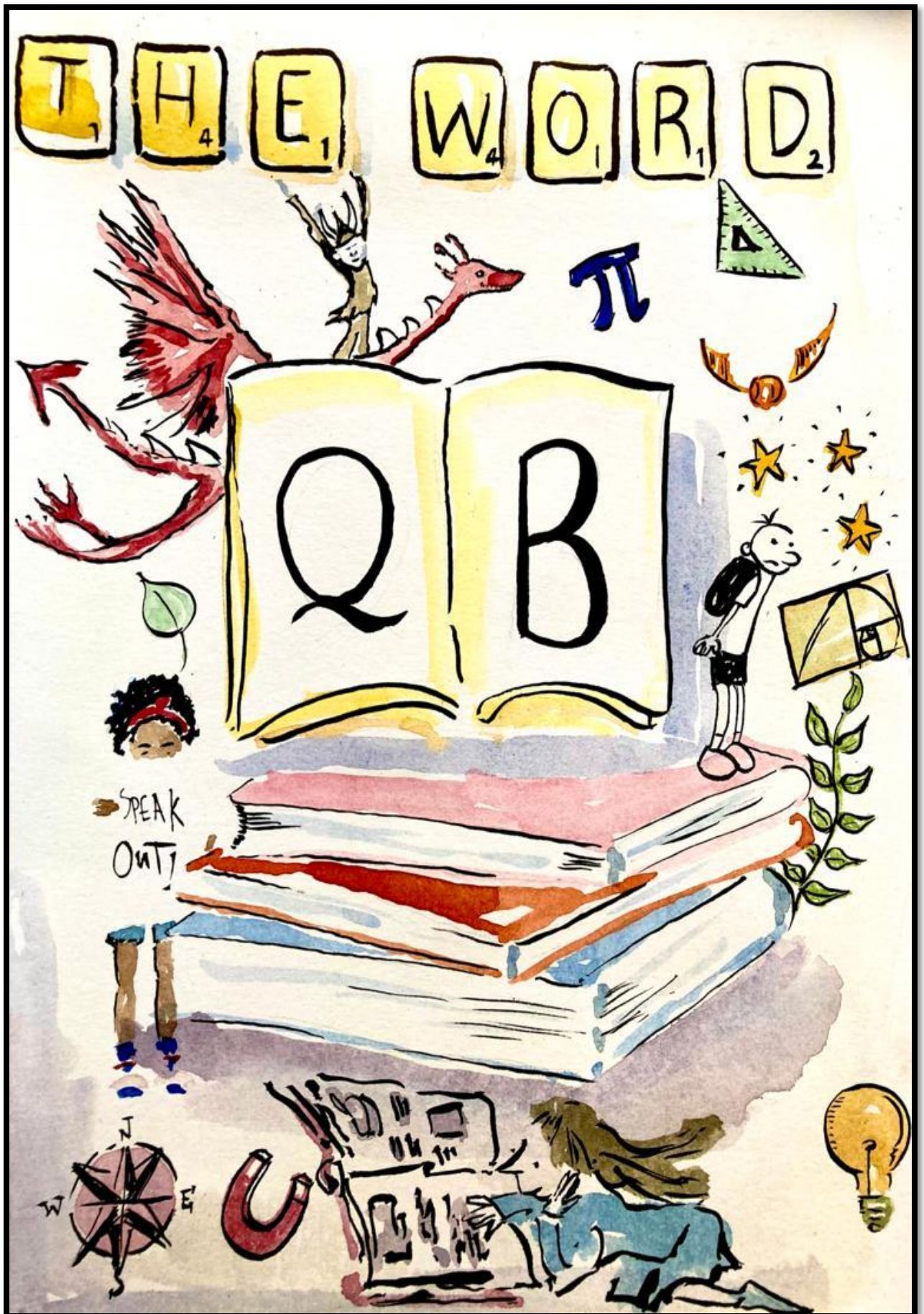


Reading News from QB



Spring 2023

Welcome to this term's edition of **The Word**

In this edition we focus on the importance of **relevance**. When young people read books which they can relate to, through the character, the setting, the plot etc, they are more likely to connect with the story. This in turn means that they are more likely to pick up and finish the book!

YA (Young Adult) fiction is one of the fastest growing sectors of the publishing industry. Your child will be spoilt for choice if you look at these titles in your local/school library, SORA reading app, book shops and charity shops. They bridge the gap perfectly between children's and adult fiction and will feel relevant and relatable to your child.

Contents

1. Top Tip: Supporting Your Child with Reading to Learn
2. Expert Opinion
3. Reading Recommendations
4. Reading and Library News

As always, to stay up to date with everything reading related, follow us!

 Twitter: @QbridgeLibrary

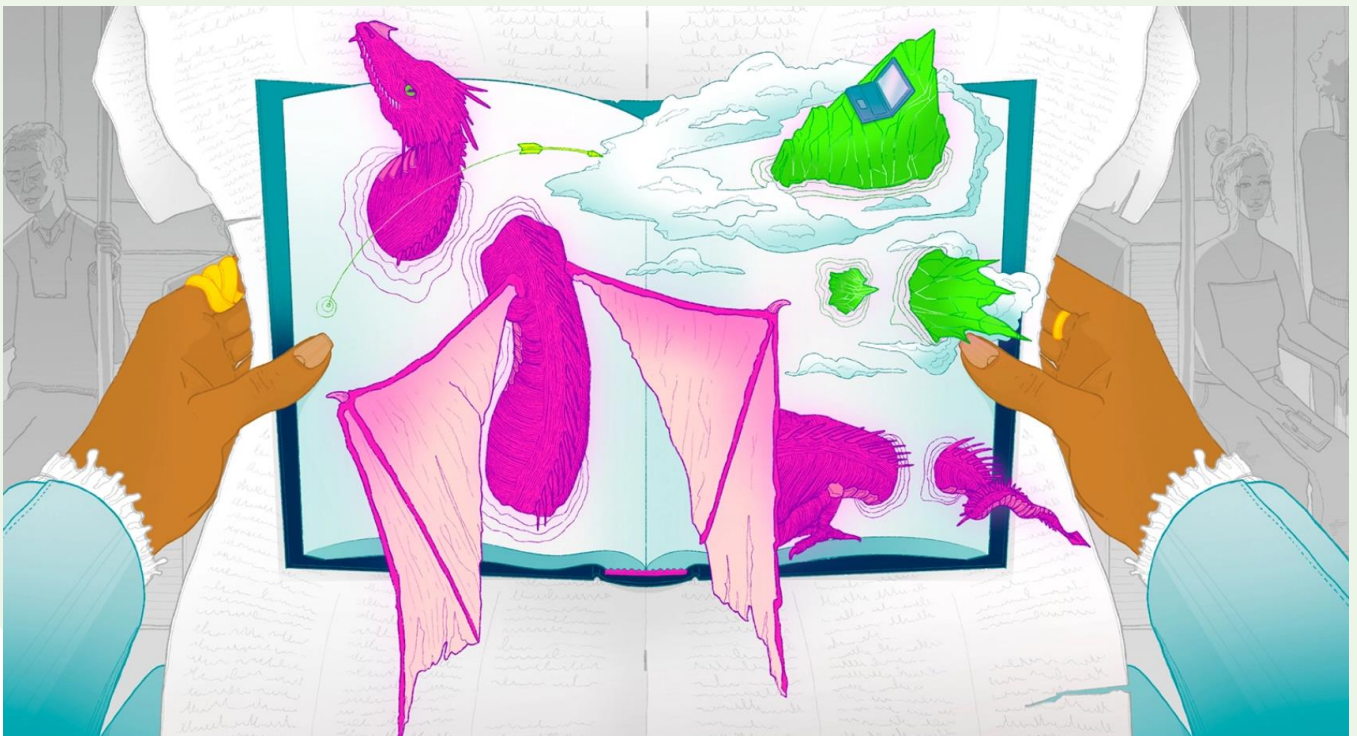


Top Tip:

Take your child to a book shop, library, SORA reading app or a charity shop, and let them browse the YA (Young Adult) section.

As parents and carers, it is our instinct to jump in and guide them to the book that we think will be best for them, but let them browse uninterrupted and choose a book that feels relevant to them.

This might not be what you would choose. This is OK. They are developing their reading identity and can only do this when allowed to browse freely.



The Relevance of Young Adult Literature, ASCD (abridged)

Contemporary young adult literature (YAL) is an electrifying genre for getting today's young adolescents reading and exploring who they are. Such literature contains themes, plots, language, and characters that are consistent with young adults' experiences. Today's young adult literature is sophisticated, complex, and powerful.

Tackling Tough Questions

Quality young adult fiction can help tweens and teens handle the plethora of emotional, social, developmental, and physical changes they experience. Many contemporary young adult novels contain themes and content that mirror problems facing many of today's young people (Stallworth, 1998), from bullying and sibling rivalry to more serious issues like teen pregnancy. Some parents may object to the tendency of many teen novels to center on emotionally sensitive problems like domestic violence, considering such topics too potentially disturbing for young teens. But a growing number of parents, librarians, and teachers embrace contemporary young adult literature for its potential to facilitate young adolescents' transition into later stages of development.

The “problem novel” genre of young adult literature is based on the philosophy of Kenneth Donelson and Alleen Pace Nilsen (2005) that Young people will have a better chance to be happy if they have realistic expectations and if they know both the bad and the good about the society in which they live.

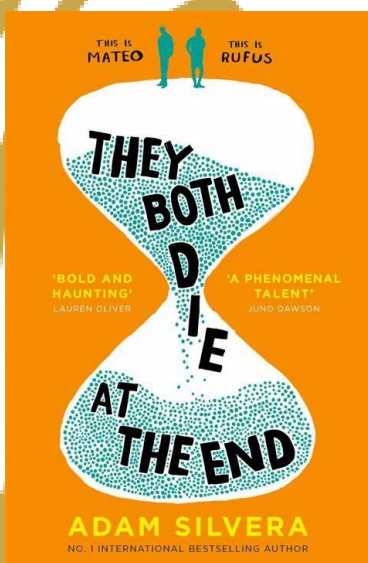
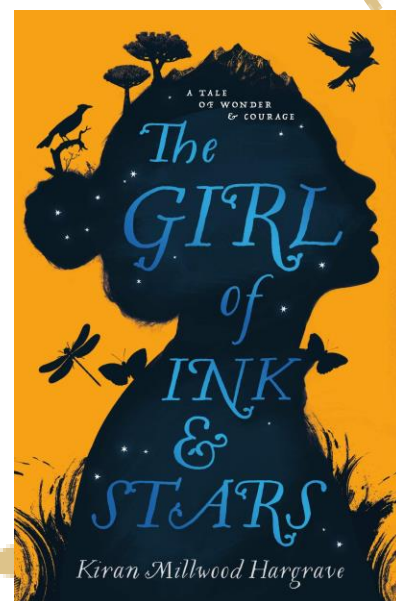
Reading Recommendations KS3

Lend now @ QB Library!
IF YOU LOVE.....

DRAMA.....

The Girl of Ink and Stars

Winner of the British Book Awards' Children's Book of the Year.



LGBTQ+.....

They Both Die at the End

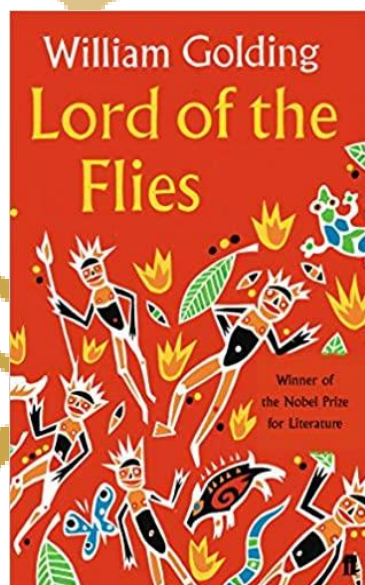
A love story with a difference - an unforgettable tale of life, loss and making each day count.

A STRONG CLASSIC.....

Lord of the Flies

'exciting, relevant and thought-provoking'

(Also a KS3 English text)

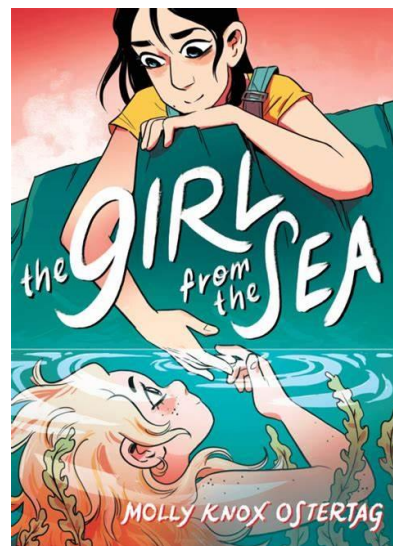


Reading Recommendations KS3

This term, QB Library is loving...
NEW GRAPHIC NOVELS

THE GIRL FROM THE SEA

A coming-of-age romance featuring a selkie, friendship dynamics and environmental activism.



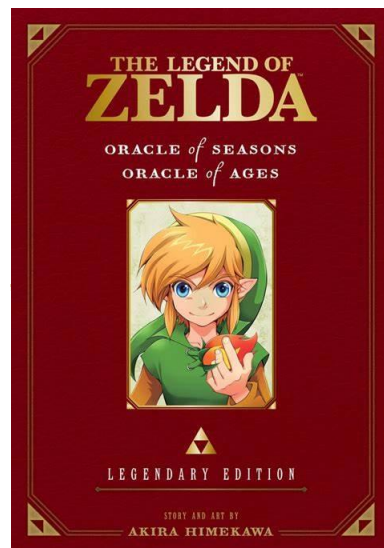
PERSEPOLIS

Wise, often funny, sometimes heart-breaking.



ZELDA

Manga legend Shotaro Ishinomori's work is a fantastic manga classic.



SQUIRE

Beautifully written and illustrated, with an equally ambitious protagonist to match.

Reading Recommendations

KS4: NEW FOR YOU THIS TERM:

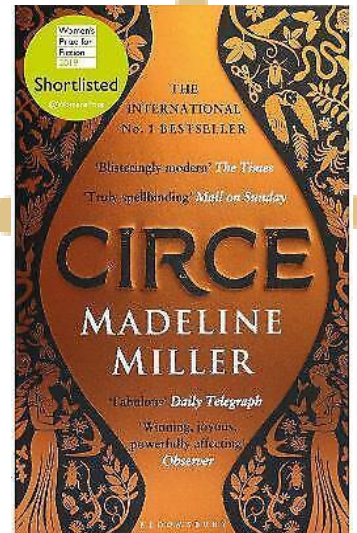
YOU THINK YOU KNOW ME

"Fiercely brilliant from beginning to end."



CIRCE

Woman. Witch. Myth. Mortal. Outcast. Lover. Destroyer. Survivor. **CIRCE**



THE PROMISE OF LOST THINGS

Ghost story, love story, and mystery in equal measure



BLACK FLAMINGO

Fiercely told, this is a powerful coming-of-age story told in verse

Your Library!

A mindful green space to relax, grow and imagine

- Liz Berry Talks at QB, Thursday 20th April, 6pm: We are delighted to be collaborating with The Heath Bookshop to host the incredible poet, Liz Berry, at Queensbridge School. Tickets are available via eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/the-heath-bookshop-52450691623> Come along to hear her perform her poems, have a cuppa and a cake, and support your local businesses and schools at the same time!
- World Book Day was a fantastic day at QB! We had competitions, fancy dress, audiobooks, decorate doors and lots more. We were delighted to welcome debut author, Ayaan Mohamud, who gave an inspiring assembly for Year 10 students and a writing workshop for KS3. We spent the day listening to our own pupil-made audiobook which featured local author, ex-QB student and artist, Osman Yousefzada. We're looking to get him into school next term!
- The Nonfiction relaunch is off to a great start with an amazing new offer of brand-new factual texts across PE and ART chosen by the teachers. Students will be able to attend research-based lessons in the library space. *Next month* will see Geography and Languages get the star treatment!
- Massive Investment in our 'READING FOR PLEASURE' fiction areas. Students from all yr. groups who visited the library were asked for their '*must have*' titles they felt were missing. Over 110 new books dropped in time for world book day!
- Pop up Events in the library this month have been colorful and celebrated our amazing diversity. The children celebrated crafts for Lunar new year and love of family and friends with '*Pal - entines*' day.
- Following the success of our 'pop up' graphic novel shop, our new Waterstones' style entry table has highlighted LGBTQ+ history month with tons of new and classic reads.

Reading News: YOUR LIBRARY

- **Heats for the ' national reading championship' were a success and our team is now warming up to take on the regional heats.**
- Storytelling week saw us screen an online event by Greg Jenner the storytelling BBC podcaster live in the library for a group of Yr 7, 8 and 9 students.
- **Applications for additional student librarians were a great success and our 1st meeting together was full of ideas about making our library an inclusive space for all.**
- QB plant clinic hosted by our library is already home to many plants on the mend. Reading to our plants in small groups helps calm the mind, create a mindful approach to learning and oxygenate our space!
- **Links with local businesses are high on our agenda this term. Watch this space for collaborations with local book shops, authors, reading group initiatives and work with our local schools in the area.**
- We are delighted to celebrate the opening of two new book shops in Kings Heath. If you haven't already visited The Heath Bookshop in King Court, or How Brave is the Wren on York Road, get yourself down there. Also check out their socials!
- **An art club collaboration and workshop with a local glass and sign writer, Sian Hughes, will support the students to design and decorate 12 of our windows with spring art, images and literary quotations.**

Reading News: YOUR LIBRARY

- **Art projects: Students from yr. 8 have produced over 20 beautiful portraits to hang above our windows with a focus on personal identity. Students will see themselves reflected in the library and celebrate our diverse culture and that we are 'stronger together'.**
- **Long Term Reading Initiatives: To support our students with their FE / employer aspirations. Both schemes will be highly rewarded with a trip, certificates and presented by the head.**
 - **'16 by 16' initiative whereby students will be encouraged to read 16 specifically chosen aspirational texts by the age of 16 with an accompanying book club**
 - **'QB ultimate reading challenge': aimed at KS3, these 15 challenges are diverse, quirky and designed to make reading fun yet provoke thought, empathy and stretch to the students.**
- **Our in-house pop-up projects will include international women's day, Easter competitions, Beautiful new Islamic books for EID, Holiday reading incentives, Spring planting sessions, Two large 'BookDrops' inspired by our new suggestions scheme, Birm Pride activities & much more!**
- **Study & Revision: as the GCSE's are at the forefront this term, the study area will be prioritized for this year group with additional resources direct from subject leaders and extra times over the exams in the library for study and quiet time. New nonfiction selected by Yr. 11 will be launched to support their 'reading for pleasure'.**
- **We continue our mini makeover of our library with a new layout to create clear 'reading for pleasure' and 'study zones', additional seating, simple colour coded sections to support students to locate what they need easily. We also have new signage and lots of plants to bring our green space to life!**

Clubs in the Library

- **Art club**

Take over every *Monday*: bringing Library art projects alive including 'old book origami displays, digital headers, literary shelf talker

- **Audio book club**

Relaxing in the dark every *Tuesday* powered by SORA our 'free to students' online book service

- **Book groups**

Take over on *Wednesdays*. 16 books by 16 years club and 'QB ultimate KS3 reading challenge' coming next term.

- **Dungeons and Dragons**

Every *Thursday* with board game. Warhammer clubs coming soon!

- **Weekend winddown**

Relax, chill with friends and pick your book for the weekend on *Fridays*

- **Chess, mindful games and creative coloring**

Available *all day every day* for a peaceful moment.

- **Carnegie Shadow Group**

Coming soon...