

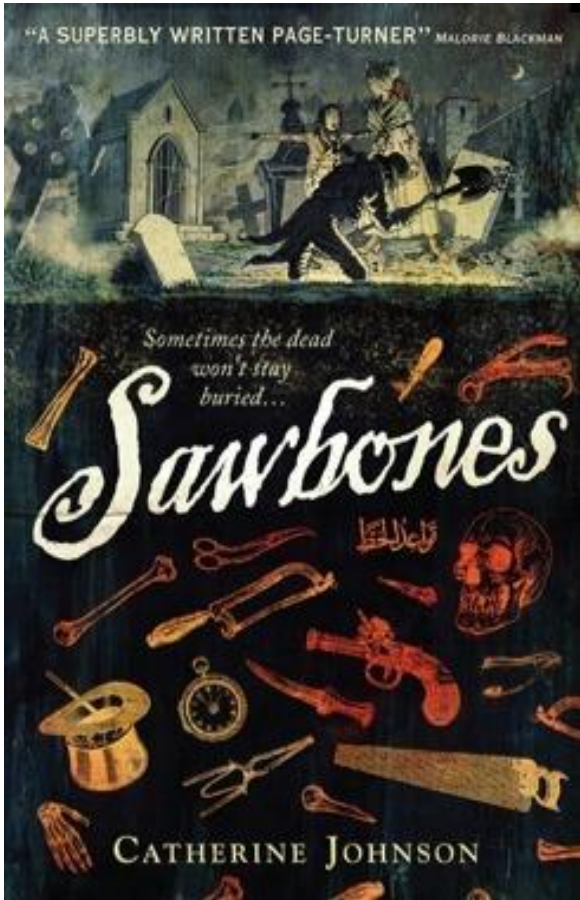
April 2024

*Welcome to our termly reading newsletter. Each term, we will recommend books from a range of genres and styles.*

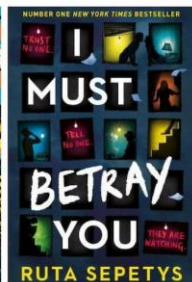
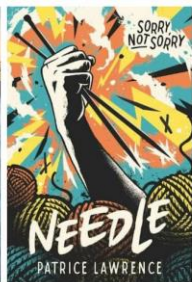
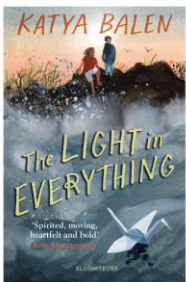


**Sawbones**  
Historical  
Mystery  
Body parts

Sixteen-year-old Ezra McAdam has much to be thankful for: trained up as an apprentice by a well-regarded London surgeon, Ezra's knowledge of human anatomy and skill at the dissection table will secure him a trade for life. However, his world is turned on its head when a failed break-in at his master's house sets off a strange and disturbing series of events that involves grave robbing, body switching ... and murder. Sparky, persuasive young Loveday Finch, daughter of the late Mr Charles Finch, magician, employs Ezra to investigate her father's death - and there are marked similarities between his corpse and the others. The mystery takes Ezra and Loveday from the Operating Theatre at St Bart's to the desolate wasteland of Coldbath Fields; from the streets of Clerkenwell to the dark, damp vaults of Newgate Prison; and finally to the shadowy and forbidding Ottoman Embassy, which seems to be the key to it all...



## Yoto Carnegie Shortlist



The Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing is awarded by children's librarians for an outstanding book written in English for children and young people. Each year a book is selected from a shortlist.

April 2024

## The Blue Book of

### Nebo

Dystopian

Nature

Mystery



Prize-winner in three categories of the 2019 Wales Book of the Year Award, *The Blue Book of Nebo* paints a spellbinding and eerie picture of society's collapse, and the relationships that persist after everything as we know it disappears. After nuclear disaster, Rowenna and her young son are among the rare survivors in rural north-west Wales. Left alone in their isolated hillside cottage, after others have died or abandoned the towns and villages, they must learn new skills in order to remain alive. With no electricity or modern technology they must return to the old ways of living off the land, developing new personal resources.

While they become more skilled and stronger, the relationship between mother and son changes in subtle ways, as Dylan must take on adult responsibilities, especially once his baby sister Mona, arrives. Despite their close understanding, mother and son have their own secrets, which emerge as in turn they jot down their thoughts and memories in a found notebook. As each reflects on their old life and the events since the disaster which has brought normal, twenty-first century life to an end, their new-found maturity and sense of purpose contrast not only with their old selves but also with new emotional challenges.

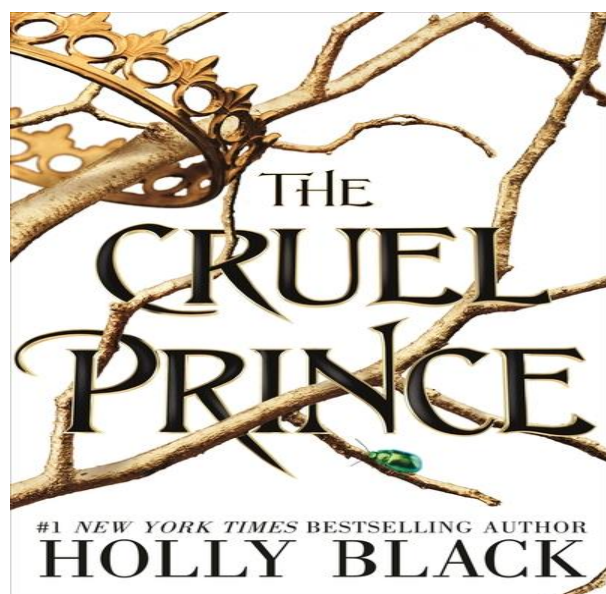
Our summaries are taken from the Goodreads website: <https://www.goodreads.com/>

Jude was seven when her parents were murdered and she and her two sisters were stolen away to live in the treacherous High Court of Faerie. Ten years later, Jude wants nothing more than to belong there, despite her mortality. But many of the fey despise humans. Especially Prince Cardan, the youngest and wickedest son of the High King.

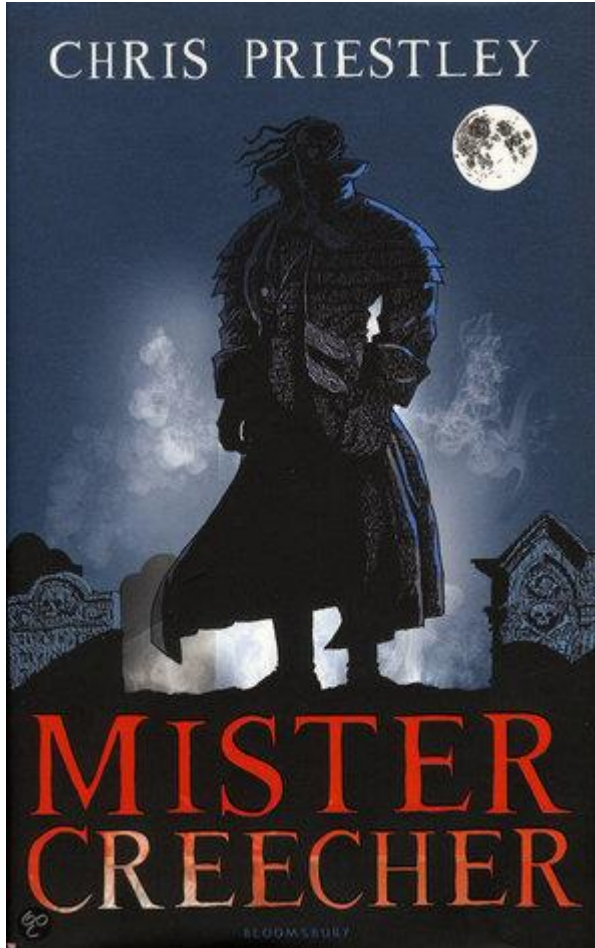
To win a place at the Court, she must defy him—and face the consequences.

As Jude becomes more deeply embroiled in palace intrigues and deceptions, she discovers her own capacity for trickery and bloodshed. But as betrayal threatens to drown the Courts of Faerie in violence, Jude will need to risk her life in a dangerous alliance to save her sisters, and Faerie itself. become a Crafter. Taught by the gruff but wise Himura, Kurara learns to hunt shikigami - wild paper spirits who are sought after by the Princess.

But are these creatures just powerful slaves for the Crafters and the empire, or are they beings with their own souls - and yet another thing to be subjugated by the powerful Emperor and his Princess?



April 2024



## Mister Creecher

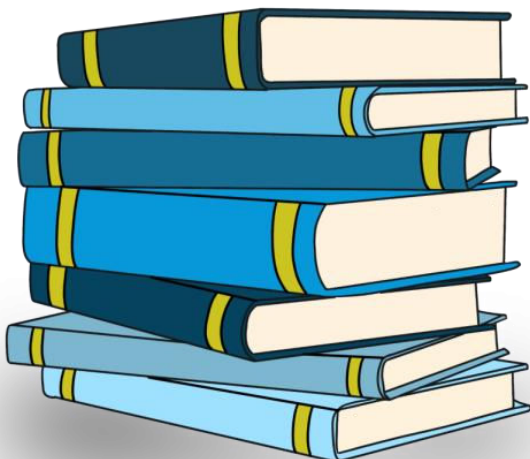
Growing Up

Real life

Issues

Billy is a street urchin, pickpocket and petty thief. Mister Creecher is a monstrous giant of a man who terrifies all he meets. Their relationship begins as pure convenience. But a bond swiftly develops between these two misfits as their bloody journey takes them ever northwards on the trail of their target ...Victor Frankenstein.

Friendship, trust and betrayal combine to form a dangerous liaison in this moving and frightening book from Chris Priestley.



**Our Student book club will  
be every Thursday after-  
school 3.15-4.15 in the LRC**

Book  
Club

# Why is reading so important?

April 2024

This information has been taken from:  
<https://www.highspeedtraining.co.uk/hub/why-is-reading-important-for-children/>

**There are multiple other benefits that reading can have on your development, including:**

**Assisted cognitive development.** Cognitive development refers to how we perceive and think about our world in reference to our intelligence, reasoning, language development, and information processing. By reading, it can provide you with a deep understanding about your world. You then use this acquired background knowledge to make sense of what you see, hear, and read, which aids cognitive development.

**Developing empathy.** When we read a book, we put ourselves in the story in front of us. This allows us to develop empathy as we experience the lives of other characters and can identify with how they are feeling.

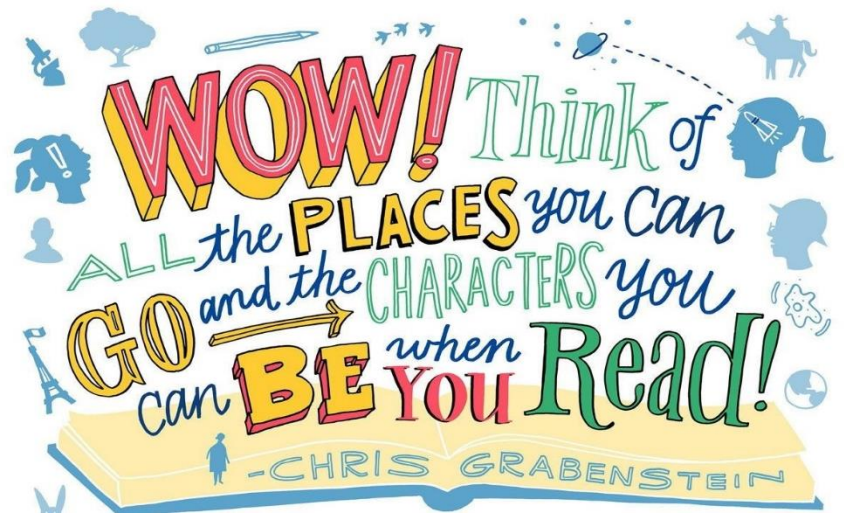
**Gaining deeper understanding.** A book can take us anywhere: to another city, to a different country, or even to an alternative world. By reading a book, you learn about people, places, and events that you couldn't learn otherwise. This gives a deeper understanding of the world around you and cultures that are different from your own.

## **What is the Importance of Stories in Education?**

Reading can help to create a love of reading for life. Multiple studies have found a correlation between reading for pleasure and higher academic achievement in every subject, not just English.

## The benefits of reading on education is wide-ranging:

- Improved literary skills.
- More extensive vocabulary
- Greater concentration
- Higher levels of creativity and imagination



The following article is taken from: [Why is reading especially important for teens? - Scottish Book Trust](#)

### Why is reading especially important for teens?

Research shows that reading regularly can improve literacy and language skills (Jerim et al, 2019). For example, reading comprehension (understanding what we read), reading fluency (reading quickly and accurately) and decoding (breaking down unfamiliar words to help pronounce them) benefit from a regular reading practice.

Because it is important to have strong literacy skills by the end of secondary school, a lot of research into teenagers' reading has focussed on achievement outcomes like these. However, research shows that reading fiction books might have several other benefits for teens.

#### **Reading fiction supports self-discovery and development**

Reading fiction books might help teenagers develop their understanding of 'who they are'. Research has shown that connecting with fictional characters helps readers to explore their own identities. Our identities are made up of our personalities, experiences, values, goals, thoughts, and beliefs, and help us understand why we think, feel, and behave in certain ways. Research suggests that reading fiction might give us an opportunity to experiment with different identities in safe, imagined environments (Slater et al, 2014).

Some researchers think that when we emotionally connect with a character in a book and feel immersed in a story, our own identities temporarily expand to include the thoughts, feelings, and experiences of the characters we are connecting with.

In this way, fiction books provide an opportunity to explore different possibilities for ourselves, and to reflect upon the parts of our identities which are important to us. This process might be especially important in our teenage years, as we explore and develop our sense of who we are.

#### **Reading fiction helps us understand, relate to, and empathise with others**

Fiction books might also help teenagers to develop their understanding of other people and their ability to take others' perspectives. Perspective taking is a skill that develops throughout our teenage years as our social worlds become increasingly complex. Research indicates that connecting with fictional characters might help readers to strengthen their perspective taking skills.

When we get absorbed in a story, we put ourselves in the characters' shoes, taking their perspective as we imagine what they are thinking and feeling. One group of researchers experimented with Harry Potter books, finding that identifying with positive characters in the books, and being able to take their perspectives, reduced prejudice towards groups that are often discriminated against in real life (Vezzali et al, 2015). Research has also indicated that feeling transported into a narrative can influence empathy and other interpersonal skills (Bal et al, 2013).

### **Reading fiction supports our wellbeing**

Connections with texts can also help readers navigate difficult emotions and understand their experiences. In the first 2020 coronavirus lockdown in particular, many young people reported that reading had made them feel better and encouraged them to think optimistically about the future.

More generally, the teenage years are often a period of great change. Teens have to navigate the transition to high school, changing relationships with their peers, increased extra-curricular commitments, and are generally becoming more aware of the social and political world around them. With all this in mind, it is no wonder that escaping into the pages of an imaginary world might help support teens' wellbeing. Teens say reading can help them feel comforted, relaxed, entertained, and gives them an opportunity to escape from their everyday lives.

Reading can have numerous benefits for teenagers. While we often focus on attainment outcomes, reading also helps teens develop their self-understanding and understanding of others, and can support their emotional wellbeing at a particularly tumultuous period of life. With the teen years being a particularly vulnerable time for reading habits, it's important we support teens to find and access books they enjoy to help them experience all these benefits.