



**READING
ROCKS!**
DECEMBER 2022

LOVE



At Abbey Academies Trust, we understand the importance of encouraging children to read for pleasure. It might not seem like a particularly important task, but actually, research shows that reading for pleasure can be directly linked to children's success throughout their time at school and even into adulthood.

Reading for pleasure opens up new worlds for children. It gives them the opportunity to use their imagination to explore new ideas, visit new places and meet new characters. Interestingly, reading for pleasure also improves children's well-being and empathy. It helps them to understand their own identity, and gives them an insight into the world and the views of others.

TIPS

READING

Here are some ideas for encouraging your child to read for pleasure:

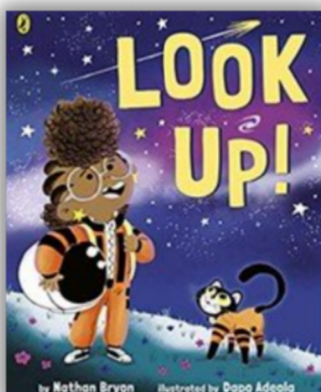
- Set aside a special time – just a few minutes a day is enough to create a reading habit.
- Get caught reading yourself – show that reading for pleasure is not just for children.
- Read to each other – if your child really doesn't want to read on their own, then read together. You read a page, then they read a page or one of you could read any dialogue. Be brave and put on different voices.

Check out some top reads for December



Our favourite ape, Sally Jones, is back with another thrilling adventure that leads her into the dark underbelly of Glasgow. After finding a mysterious necklace hidden on their boat "The Hudson Queen", Sally and the Chief sail to Glasgow where they become entangled with a gruesome gang of nefarious types led by a smuggler queen. The atmosphere is dark and murky and the tone of the story is more grown-up, with the threat of violence around every corner and poor Sally becoming enslaved by the gang. The mystery at the heart of the story holds the reader in its grip throughout, and even when the outlook is bleak, we still have hope for Sally Jones. Sally's burgeoning kinship with the unfortunate Bernie gives the story an emotional pull and sheds light on the mystery towards the conclusion of the book. A very satisfying and intriguing sequel to The Murderer's Ape which can also be enjoyed as a standalone. I can't wait for the next adventure!

Tsunami Girl is a beautiful, heart-wrenching and powerful coming-of-age story which is set during the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami. Yuki is visiting her Grandpa in Japan when the tsunami strikes, and the narrative is split between the events of the tsunami, where Yuki loses her Grandpa, and the aftermath of trauma and Yuki's desperation to go back and find out what happened to her Grandpa. The prose is interspersed with Chie Kutsuwada's manga panels that bring to life the events of the tsunami and Yuki's inner world and childhood imaginary friend Half Wave. I loved the ghostly atmosphere of the story and the sense of empty space where people once lived now populated by ghosts. The book explores what home is and how difficult it can be to reconcile where you belong as a person of dual heritage. It is also about how important it is to gain closure on a traumatic event and the lengths to which you must go to say goodbye. A must-read for all older readers.



Children can join Rocket on more joyous, life-affirming adventures with the first book in her series Look up! And the later title, clean up! The ever-curious Rocket explores space, the natural world, and even fights plastic pollution. But will her big brother ever look up from his phone?

Full of passion and heart-warming energy, Rocket's questions and positive approach to life make the books a joy to read aloud, and the illustrations provide much fun for younger readers.

Suggestions?

If you have any suggestions that you would like to include in our next Reading Rocks newsletter, tell your teacher.