



**READING  
ROCKS!**  
JANUARY 2023



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

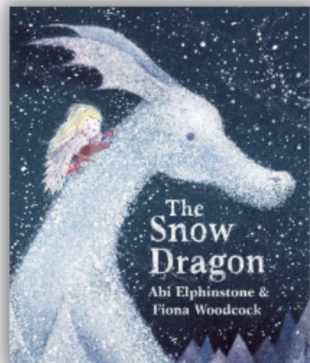
Here are some ideas for encouraging your child to read for pleasure:

**Reading buddies** – reading to a younger sibling can boost your child's self-confidence and communication skills.

**Audiobooks** – audiobooks allow children to experience a book above their own reading level. It also allows you to share a book together or make the most of those car journeys. Listening to a story over and over again can improve vocabulary and encourage deeper comprehension.

**Stage and screen** – use your child's favourite films or games as a springboard into reading. Knowing the characters and storyline can be a helpful bridge into reading a longer story.

## Check out some top reads for January



### Young reader

You can be late for many things in life, but you should never keep an adventure waiting . . .

In Griselda Bone's gloomy orphanage, daydreaming is banned, skipping is forbidden, and Christmas is well and truly cancelled. Until, of course, the Snow Dragon comes to life and takes Phoebe on the adventure of a lifetime.

Abi Elphinstone and Fiona Woodcock have created an enchanting, magical, and deeply moving picture book, with illustrations that swoop off the page, and a story that pulls at the heartstrings.

This is a magnificent historical fiction set during World War II in the village of Velp near Arnhem; it is loosely based on the childhood story of Audrey Hepburn. 15 year old Edda (Audrey) is frightened and increasingly hungry, but she shows immense courage in undertaking small actions of resistance against the Nazi occupiers. Like most Dutch citizens, Edda's family has been traumatised by the war: her uncle was killed by the Germans as retribution for the actions of saboteurs; her brother Alex is in hiding because Dutch young men were abducted and sent to work as virtual slave labour in Germany; her other brother Ian is 17 so should be young enough to be safe – but is he? And why is Edda's mother on a list of locals that are 'not to be trusted'? What will Edda do if Allied paratroopers arrive in Arnhem to liberate the population – but end up underestimating German military power? This is a story of resistance and hope in the face of oppression.



History on the form of a graphic novel! A fantastic way to help children develop a broad and interlinked knowledge of human history in bitesize chunks with amusing illustrations.

Not a book packed solely with facts, but a fun exploration of the life and times of the historical figures and events that have shaped today's world.

## Suggestions?

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