

# READING RAMPAGE

## Booktalking Notes

| <i>Author</i>   | <i>Title</i>                  |
|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>Adam Baron</b>   | <b>You Won't Believe This</b> |
| <p>Cymbeline Igloo is not impressed. Everyone's favourite teacher, Mrs Martin, has become the target of some nasty practical jokes and he and his classmates are keen to find the person responsible. There's lots of other 'stuff' going on in his life too! Add into the mix his friend's grandmother with her interesting past, his mum who has a new boyfriend and Cym's usual brand of humour (and hilarious view of the world) to create this great new read. A funny and light hearted story with some more serious moments to make you think.</p> |                               |

| <i>Author</i>  | <i>Title</i>       |
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| <b>Andy Briggs</b>   | <b>Drone Racer</b> |
| <p>Drones have been pretty topical over recent years –with lots of news about airport hold ups in London. That's the down side, but drone racing is a new competitive sport that's growing fast. Carson, Trix and Eddie are three young drone racing friends, otherwise known as 'The Carsonators'. When their drone is smashed up by a competitor (racing can be a dangerously high contact sport) it seems to be the end. A visit to a local scrapyards for spare parts unearths an amazing high tech drone unlike anything they have seen or imagined before. It has a mind of its own, a real competitive streak and hidden powers. Now The Carsonators are competing on the International Drone racing circuit –the underdogs are fighting back. However, the original owners want their drone back and will stop at nothing to get it. An unbelievably fast paced action adventure which still gives time to reflect on friendship, grief and whether cheating is the best way to win.</p> <p><b>p52-57 – Meet Vanta the drone</b><br/><b>p117-120 – Vanta shows her sensitive side</b><br/><b>p164-168 – The question: to cheat or not?</b></p> |                    |

| <i>Author</i>   | <i>Title</i>            |
|---|-------------------------|
| <b>Rachel Burge</b>   | <b>The Twisted Tree</b> |
| <p>This is a completely chilling ghost story, full of magic, mystery and a bit of romance. Martha realises that since the day she fell out of the twisted tree and became blind in one eye and disfigured, she has a strange ability (<b>read p3 - 4</b>). She's running away to Norway to her grandma's or Mormor as she calls her but when she arrives to find Mormor not there but a strange boy called Stig living in her cabin instead. Then things start to get frightening. The horrendous howls they hear and things moving around the cabin, including a really creepy doll sets Martha and Stig on their petrifying ordeal. It's perfectly chilling and some of the descriptions of the creature and what Martha has to face in the twisted tree are terrifying. What is the creature out there that they can hear and why can Martha see ghosts through her blind eye?</p> |                         |

| <i>Author</i>  | <i>Title</i>          |
|--|-----------------------|
| <b>Keren David</b>   | <b>The Disconnect</b> |
| <p>Could you live without your phone for 6 weeks? 6 weeks without sharing photos, group messages or social media! What about if someone said you would win £1000 to do it?</p> <p>That's the question that is asked of students at Esther's school. They are to be part of a social media experiment and not many students take on the challenge, despite the incentive.</p> <p>But Esther, who desperately wants to win the prize money to visit her dad, sister and her baby in New York, hands in her phone and begins a social-media-free life.</p> <p>What happens when she discovers it may not be the simple experiment they were told it was? What if there is something more sinister at work...?</p> |                       |

| <i>Author</i>   | <i>Title</i>           |
|---|------------------------|
| <b>Ann Evans</b>  | <b>A Little Secret</b> |
| <p>This book is TERRIFYING and one you won't forget in a hurry.</p> <p>Lucas is fond of his great-grandmother and often visits her in the care home in which she now lives. On a visit to her old house, he and his girlfriend Katy find an old doll that he believes belonged to her, hidden in the bottom of her wardrobe.</p> <p>Let's just say it was hidden for a reason!</p> <p>An excellent short story/novel, very readable and great for fans of horror stories.</p> <p><b>*Contains scenes of violence and threat.*</b></p> |                        |

| <i>Author</i>  | <i>Title</i> |
|--|--------------|
| <b>Mitch Johnson</b>   | <b>Kick</b>  |
| <p>Budi and his best mate Rochy live and breathe football, playing every chance they get, which isn't often, as they are forced to work in an Indonesian sweatshop, making football boots all day long. Budi likes to think the boots he makes are destined for his favourite Real Madrid player, Kieran Wakefield, and dreams of one day becoming a star player too. But this is Indonesia and life is about to get very real. <b>(Read p204-6)</b>. Powerful and shocking – one boy and his dreams of the beautiful game that will change the way you see football, forever.</p> |              |

| <i>Author</i>   | <i>Title</i>                   |
|---|--------------------------------|
| <b>Cas Lester</b>   | <b>Do you speak chocolate?</b> |
| <p>This is a lovely story about a friendship made across language barriers between a British girl called Jaz and a newly-arrived Syrian refugee called Nadima.</p> <p>When Nadima first arrives in England with her family and starts at Jaz's school she knows almost no English. Terrified and alone, Jaz makes the first move.</p> <p><b>EXTRACT (p17-18 ('As soon as' to 'But I just knew')) - this is from Nadima's first day at school.</b></p> <p>It's a really great story that's hard to put down once you've started.</p> <p>Alongside Nadima's story as a refugee, there are two other storylines: Jaz is dyslexic and always ends up in trouble at school, there's the battle between Kara and Jaz over their mutual best friend Lily. So as you can imagine there's a lot of real life teenage drama going on!</p> |                                |

| <i>Author</i>  | <i>Title</i>    |
|--|-----------------|
| <b>Gill Lewis</b>  | <b>Run Wild</b> |
| <p>Izzy and Asha crave freedom- a space to hang out and to practise their skateboarding skills- and most of all peace and quiet from hectic home lives.</p> <p>They find a deserted piece of land and on it they find...(EXTRACT/ a wolf)</p> <p>The gasworks is an industrial site that has fallen into rack and ruin and has become a haven for wildlife. The girls and Izzy's younger brother Connor explore the site throughout the summer, animal watching and practising with their skateboards out of sight of the Skull brothers and everything's going really well until three official looking men turn up and discover their secret. What will happen to their new space? What will happen to the wolf?</p> <p><b>Extract- opening page (1)</b></p> |                 |

| <i>Author</i>  | <i>Title</i>             |
|--|--------------------------|
| <b>Tom Mitchell</b>  | <b>How to Rob a Bank</b> |
| <p>Dylan really, really fancies Beth, but in his eagerness to impress her, he does something extremely daft – he burns down her house – with a Nepalese scented candle! It turns out the house wasn't insured so now Beth's family are in desperate straits, and Dylan is equally desperate to make amends.</p> <p>So... he decides that the solution is... to rob a bank! His first attempt to rob the post office doesn't go too well (<b>read pages 42-44</b>) but he's not giving up.</p> <p>Whilst juggling an unwanted Saturday job in the bank and his overdue history homework, can he pull off the heist of the century and finally get the girl of his dreams? Funny story with a lovable – if hapless – hero.</p> <p><b>Alternative extract: pgs. 11 "I took the candle" to 15 – Dylan has an embarrassing incident in Beth's bedroom and burns down her house.</b></p> |                          |

| <i>Author</i>  | <i>Title</i>     |
|--|------------------|
| <b>Tom Palmer</b>  | <b>D-Day Dog</b> |
| <p>Jack and his class mates are preparing for their visit to Normandy to see the location of the D-Day landings. Each has been asked to research a war hero to honour with a small cross as they pay their respects at one of the cemeteries. Jack chooses a paratrooper and his brave paratrooper dog to research but is distressed to discover their story. He feels even more upset as he begins to compare his own beloved dog, Finn, to the WW2 dog and other animals who bravely served their country.</p> <p>Along the way Jack learns some interesting lessons about how different wars have affected people in different ways and begins to understand the complicated perspectives on conflict. The theme is explored effectively through the characters of his dad, an army reserve waiting for deployment to Afghanistan; Kasandra, his classmate, whose family are refugees from Syria; and the coach driver on the school trip who is a Falklands veteran.</p> |                  |

| <i>Author</i>  | <i>Title</i>     |
|--|------------------|
| <b>Jacqueline Rayner</b>   | <b>No Escape</b> |
| <p>A clever take on the idea of an escape room adventure.</p> <p>Paige and her friends are trying out the town's new escape room, decorated to look like a school, and get a little more than they bargained for. Each chapter acts as a countdown of their time in the escape room. Each puzzle relates subtly to a real-life incident that has happened at their school; this slowly dawns on Paige but the others are more sceptical.</p> <p>The narrative cleverly provides flashbacks to Paige and her friends as they bully a girl from their school and shows the reader how these link to the escape room.</p> <p>Has this been a set up to teach them a lesson?</p> |                  |

| <i>Author</i>  | <i>Title</i>      |
|--|-------------------|
| <b>Alexandra Sheppard</b>  | <b>Oh My Gods</b> |
| <p>Teenager Helen Thomas is settling into her new home after her move to London from Derby to live with her dad and her half-brother and sisters. Her worries about making friends are immediately allayed when she meets a great class mates. Her main problem is her family! But this is no usual set of family problems...</p> <p>Her father's side of the family are hiding a huge secret...the clue is in the title! Her awkward father, professor and antiques fanatic, is actually Zeus. Her spectacularly gorgeous older sister, is actually Aphrodite (all trying to fit into life in modern Britain). But that's just the start of it; wait until you meet the rest of the family!</p> <p>That's correct. Helen is a demi-god (half human/ half Greek god). Her everyday life involves immortality and exceptional superpowers of her thousands of year old family....but she can't breathe a word of it. No one must find out their secret. It is against the rules of the gods</p> <p>Add into the mix the usual teenage troubles, her feelings for a boy she meets at a party and you will discover a light-hearted novel which is somewhere between a Cathy Cassidy book and a Percy Jackson novel! Her heartfelt letters to her mum who has passed away provide the reader with updates and background details to Helen's life.</p> <p>Helen is a lively teenager who, having come to terms with the loss of her mother, has to face moving to a new city and living with her extraordinary relatives. This book is a humorous and slightly absurd read but still manages to deal with the trials of teen life.</p> |                   |

| <i>Author</i>  | <i>Title</i>                |
|--|-----------------------------|
| <b>Lisa Thompson</b>   | <b>The Day I was Erased</b> |
| <p>Maxwell's best friend is his dog Monster, but not everyone is so keen on him... <b>(read extract, pgs. 2 "Mrs Banks caught" to 4 "authorities")</b>. So Maxwell is always getting in trouble, especially at school, and after he does something particularly bad which he thinks has turned everyone against him he wishes that he had never been born. Then he wakes up the next day and finds that nobody knows who he is and this random guy is living in his house. It turns out the world where he'd never been born is quite different, and he'd done a lot more good for people than he realised. But how can Maxwell reverse the erasure and put things back the way they were? This is an amazing story with a great concept that shows how much good people can do without even realising.</p> <p><b>Alternative extract: pgs. 95 "Why can I not do anything right?" to 97 – Maxwell makes his wish</b></p> |                             |

| <i>Author</i>   | <i>Title</i>                  |
|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>Ross Welford</b>   | <b>The 1,000 Year Old Boy</b> |
| <p>Have you ever thought about what it would be like to live forever? How about if you stopped at 11 and you were then 11 forever, you never get to grow older but keep living for 1,000 years as an 11 year old? Well this is what happens to Alfie.</p> <p>The books starts in the year 1014, in Anglo- Saxon times where Alfie and his mum take a special life-pearl which means they stay the age they are forever. So how does Alfie cope in the modern world? Fast forward to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, a crisis in Alfie’s life and his new friendship with two very modern young people, Aiden and Roxy.</p> <p>It’s takes you back through history, adds in some adventure and it’s sad, funny and beautifully written.</p> |                               |

| <i>Author</i>   | <i>Title</i>                            |
|---|---|
| <b>Tamsin Winter</b>  | <b>Jemima Small Versus the Universe</b> |
| <p>This is heart-breaking story that is full of hope at the same time.</p> <p>Jemima is really clever, she knows all sorts of interesting facts, but she gets horribly bullied.<br/><b>EXTRACT- p7-8</b></p> <p>The school starts a healthy lifestyle group (aka Fat Club) which Jemima joins. Jemima really doesn’t want to go to but, it does start to help her and her family.</p> <p>The other part of the story is about the auditions for Jemima’s favourite TV show ‘Brainiacs’. Should Jemima audition to get on and if she does, will she beat Lottie, the horrible girl who constantly bullies her?</p> <p>The story is realistic and sometimes harsh as it takes a close look at how tough life can be for a girl like Jemima.</p> |   |