



READING RAMPAGE 2020

BOOK GROUP
READING NOTES

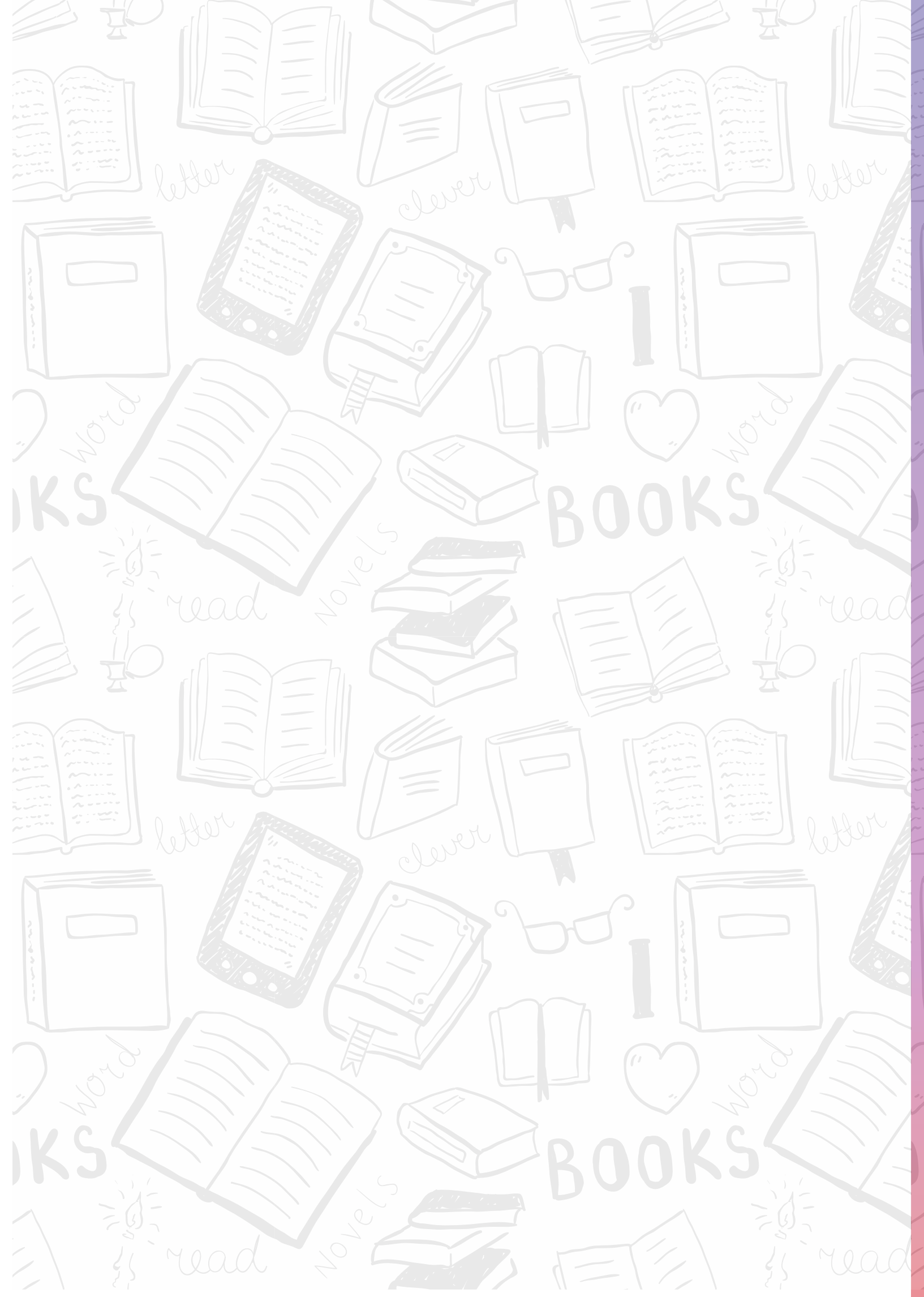


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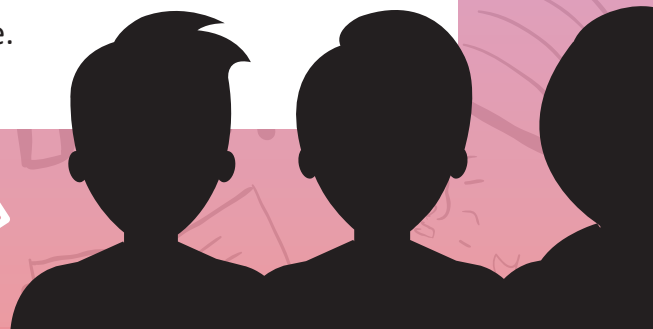
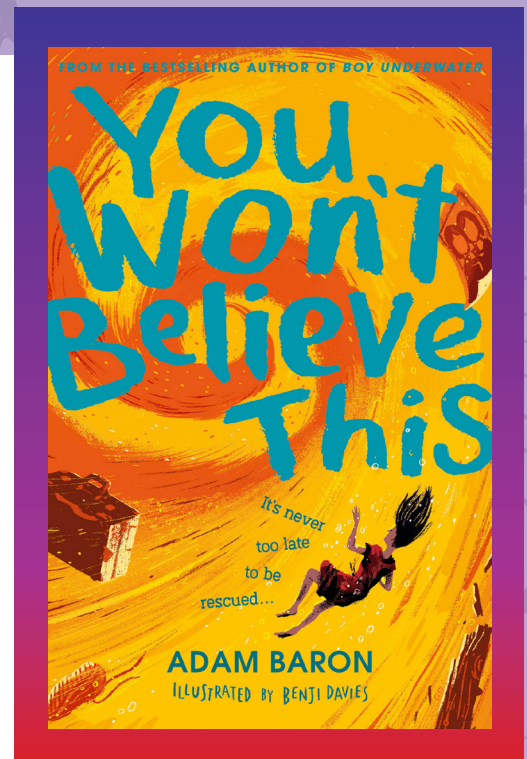
Book Group

READING NOTES

You Won't Believe This by Adam Baron

Here are some key questions and discussion points about the book to get you started:

- Cymbeline and his friends really like Mrs Martin. Why do you think she is so popular? Have you ever had a teacher or learning assistant who everyone really likes? Discuss what makes them stand out from other staff in your school.
- Juni, Cym's cousin, does not act very politely towards anyone. Do you think Cym's mum is right to tell her off for her behaviour? Why do you think this causes an issue with Cym's auntie?
- The incident with the rocket and Mrs Martin's sport bag is described in lots of detail. Read though this section again (P62-72). Why do you think the author has chosen to explain the event in this way? Is it effective in creating a clear account of what happened?
- The story is told from Cymbeline's point of view. Do you think he is an interesting narrator?
- Nanai is a very important person to various characters in the story. What do you learn about her past and how does it relate to life today?
- Cym has a big ambition which involves his favourite footballer and his helicopter; everyone thinks this is hilarious. Do you have a wild ambition that you would love to come true? Why does the author make this happen for Cymbeline?
- There are some great characters in the story. Who is your favourite and why do you like them?
- Look through the judging criteria for Reading Rampage. Does this book meet these? Discuss your opinions.



Book Group

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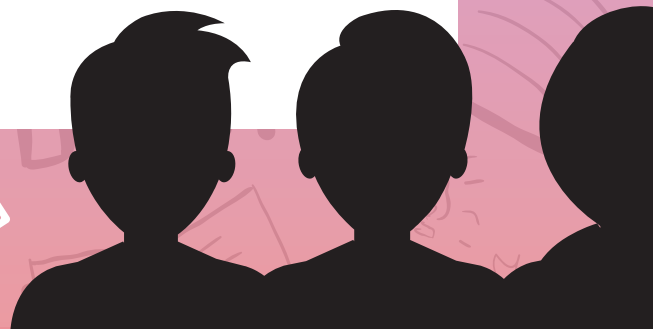
Drone Racer by Andy Briggs

*Here are some key questions
and discussion points about the
book to get you started:*

- Do Carson, Trix and Eddie work as a good team? What are their different characters/strengths?
- The drone with its Artificial Intelligence has a personality. How would you describe her character?



- Can a machine have a gender and what difference would it make to its performance?
- Why can't Carson and his dad understand/communicate with each other?
- Drone Racer has a fast paced action storyline. Is there enough character and description in the story to make it believable?
- Do you agree with Eddie that ***“what is the point in winning if you have to cheat at it”***?
- Look at the judging criteria for the Reading Rampage Award. Does this book meet these? Discuss your opinions.



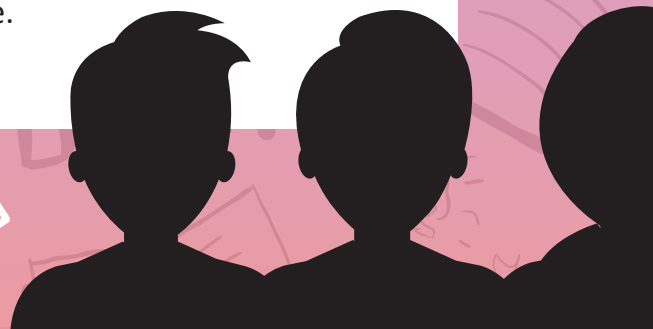
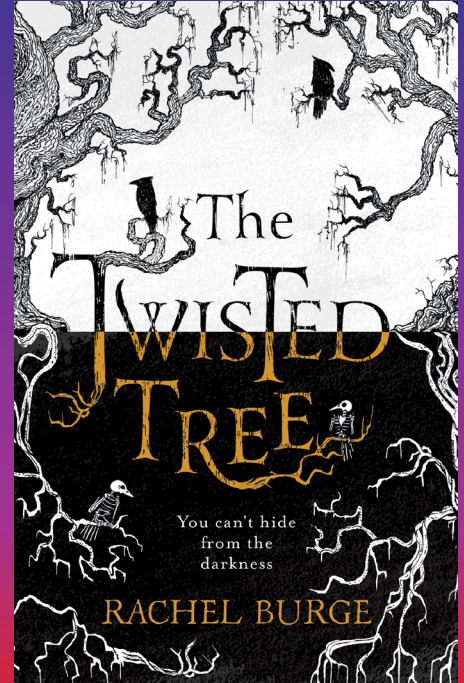
Book Group

READING NOTES

The Twisted Tree by Rachel Burge

Here are some key questions and discussion points about the book to get you started:

- The setting for the book forms an important part of the story. Do you think it was an effective choice of setting and how does it add to the atmosphere?
- We never really meet Martha's grandmother, Mormor, but what do you understand about their relationship? Discuss why she is an important character.
- Martha has a very interesting ability since her accident. In your group, discuss the power itself and think about how it would feel to have this as a special ability.
- Throughout the story we are made aware of some aspect of Norse mythology. Do you think this was a successful part of the story? Did it make you want to find out more facts?
- Lots of the elements of the story are supernatural and eerie. Do you have a favourite part or one that left a lasting impression? Explain to others in the group why you liked this part.
- What do you think of the character of Stig? Why does his presence in the story play such a key part?
- Discuss how the plot builds towards the end and reaches a conclusion. Was this a successful way of completing the story?
- Look through the judging criteria for Reading Rampage. Does this book meet these? Discuss your opinions.



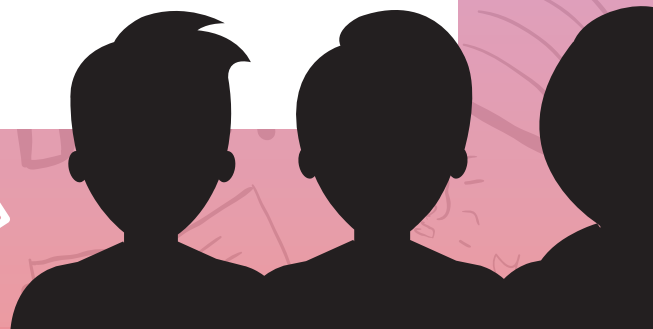
Book Group

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The Disconnect by Keren David

*Here are some key questions
and discussion points about the
book to get you started:*

- Do you think we are too dependent on our smart phones? Think about the positive and negative ways we use them in everyday life.
- Do you think *The Disconnect* was an ethical project?
- Esther was not rewarded the money in the end, but the benefits of taking part in *The Disconnect* for Esther included “*Better grades. New friends. More confidence. A better friendship with Natalie. Time for reading. A new appreciation of my dad, my family here and there*” (pg.118). Do you think that was enough of a reward for her?
- If you gave up your phone for a significant amount of time, what do you think you would gain from it?
- Do you think the art of postcard and letter writing has been lost in today’s social media focused world, or has the way we communicate simply evolved?
- If *The Disconnect* had been about encouraging rather than preventing phone addiction, how do you think the challenge would have been run differently?
- Do you think that social media has a negative effect on our privacy, especially regarding data and personal information? How can we avoid this being a problem?



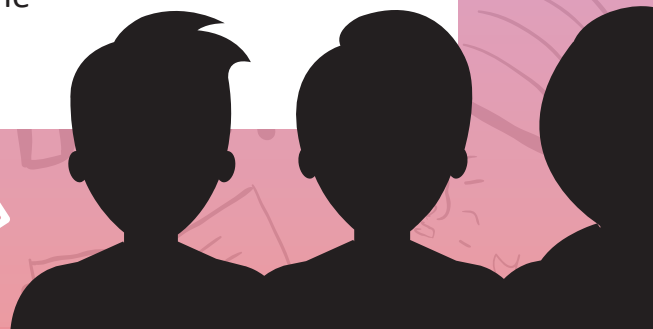
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A Little Secret by Ann Evans

*Here are some key questions
and discussion points about the
book to get you started:*

- This book is short compared to others on the Reading Rampage list this year - do you think this made a difference to you as a reader?
- What do you think of the illustrations in this book? Do they add to the story? Do you think the book needs them?
- Lucas' great gran has dementia which means she has trouble remembering things. How does this make you feel about her?
- What did you think of the ending? What do you think happened next?
- Is there a moral to this story?, if so, what do you think it is?
- Do you think Kay was right to want to sell the doll on eBay?
- The majority of the chapters in this book end on a cliff-hanger. What effect do you think this has on the story?



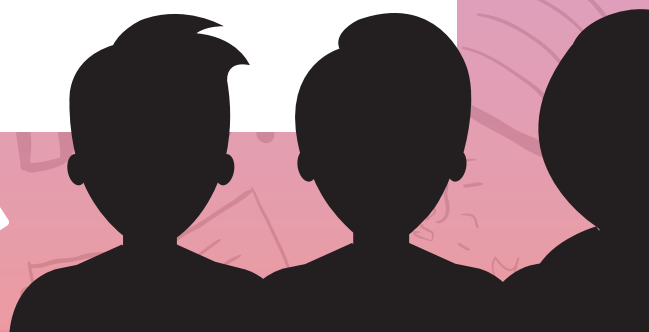
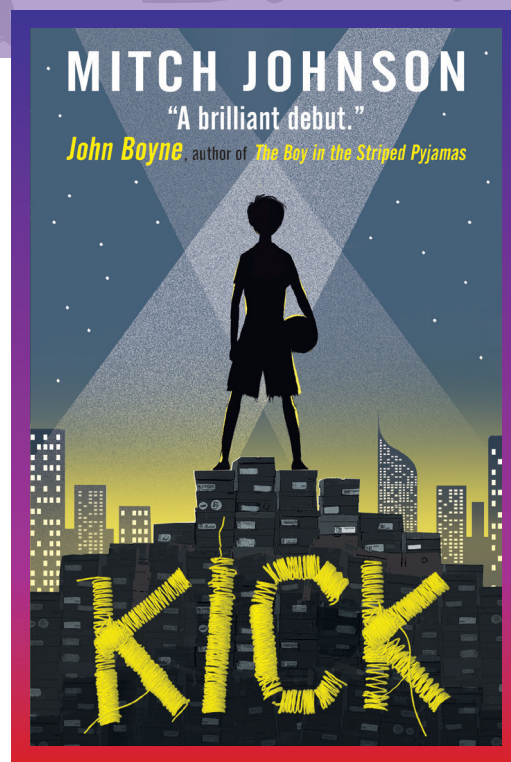
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Kick by Mitch Johnson

*Here are some key questions
and discussion points about the
book to get you started:*

- Why is football so important to Budi and Rochy?
- How does Budi's life in Indonesia compare to your life in the UK? What surprised you most about his life?
- Do you think that Budi should have stolen the boots? How might events have been different if he had?
- Budi makes a tough choice about his family, betraying his uncle to save his father. Why do you think he makes this choice? Were there any other choices he could have made?
- Budi and Rochy both love football but have a different understanding of their situation; Budi is a dreamer but Rochy is a realist. How do you think they might act as they get older? What will happen to them?
- Kick is endorsed by Amnesty International, a campaigning charity that works to protect human rights. In what ways are Budi's human rights denied in this story?
- Do you think it is okay to buy clothes or other goods that may have been made by child labour? Do some research to uncover which high street brands have been involved in child labour.



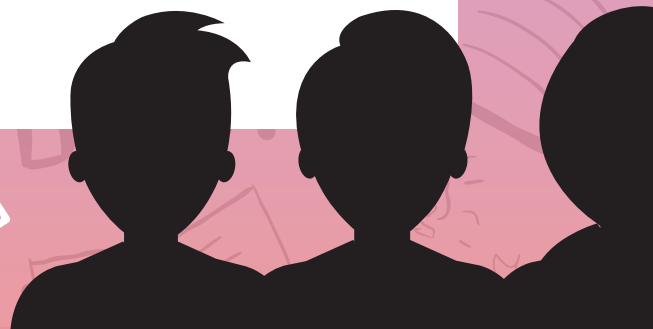
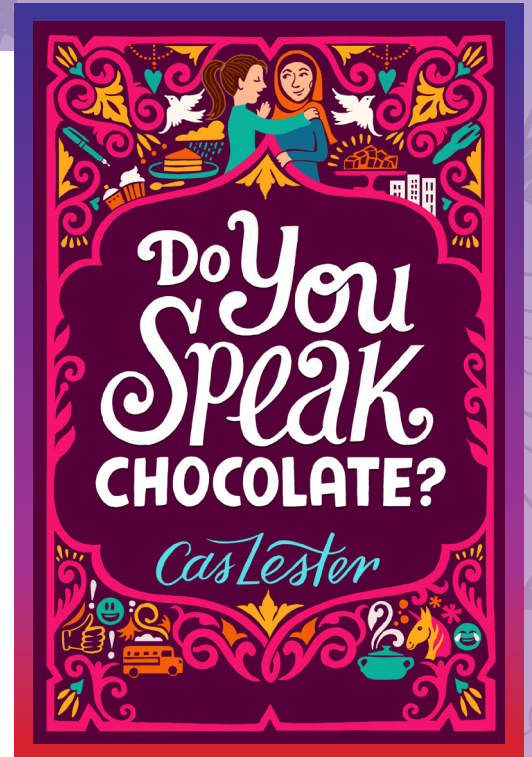
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Do you speak chocolate? by Cas Lester

*Here are some key questions
and discussion points about the
book to get you started:*

- What did you learn about refugees from this book?
- Nadima and her family have come to England to escape the conflict in Syria.
How do you think this makes Nadima feel?
- Nadima and Jaz first start messaging each other using emojis rather than words as they speak different languages.
What did you think of this?
- Jaz often gets in trouble at school because she is dyslexic.
Do you think it's her fault?
- Jaz's best friend Lily starts getting close to another friend Kara and this upsets Jaz.
How does this make you feel?
Is this a normal part of growing up, or is Kara in the wrong?
- Jaz wants to give all the money raised by the school's Charity Challenge to Nadima's family, but this upsets Nadima.
Do you think Jaz was wrong to do this, or were her actions just misunderstood?
- Look at the judging criteria for the Reading Rampage Award. Does this book meet these?
Discuss your opinions.



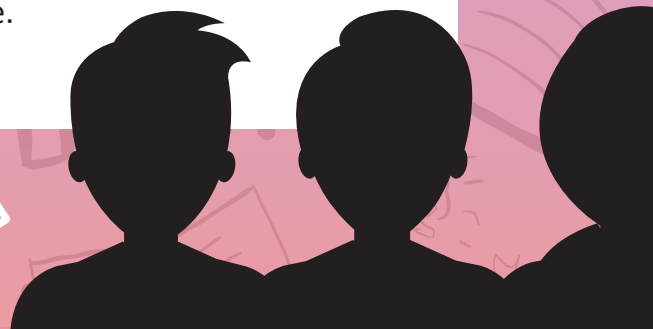
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Run Wild by Gill Lewis

Here are some key questions and discussion points about the book to get you started:

- Izzy and Asha feel like they are treated differently because they are girls wanting to skateboard. What are your views on stereotyping activities? Discuss times you may have encountered this as a boy or a girl.
- The children in the story trespass in a disused gasworks. Do you think their behaviour is dangerous or irresponsible? Talk about the reaction of their parents and teacher and their feelings about the place they have begun to think of as their own.
- There are some important messages in the book about wildlife and the environment. Discuss these in more detail and whether you agree with some of these ideas.
- How would you react to an encounter with a wild animal like the wolf if you were out playing with friends? How would you handle the situation?
- There are a number of links to family issues in the story. Do you think there are reasons that explain the behaviours of Luke and Scott and Izzy's Dad?
- Look through the judging criteria for Reading Rampage. Does this book meet these? Discuss your opinions.



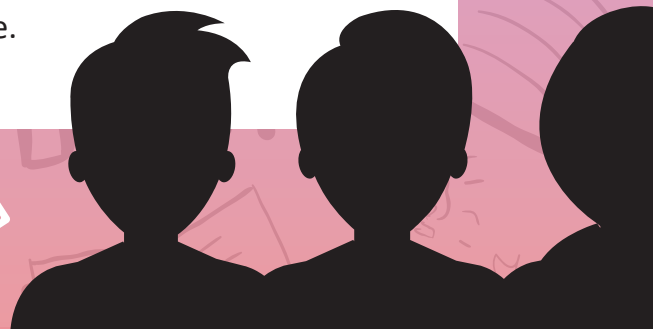
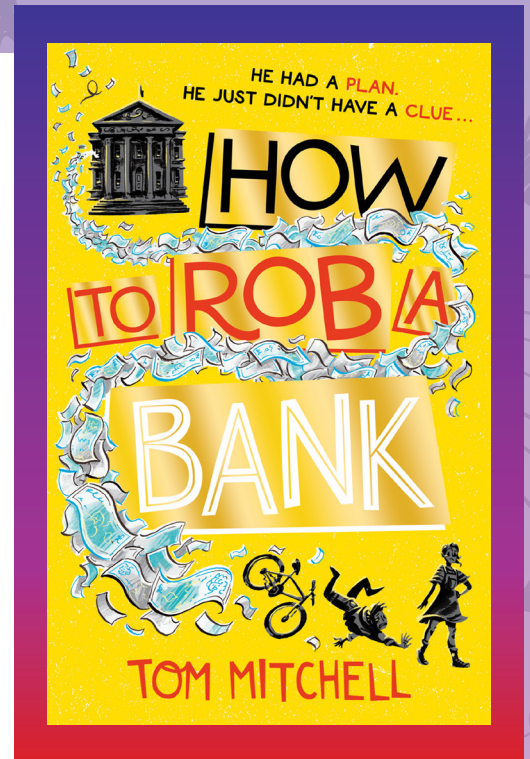
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How to Rob a Bank by Tom Mitchell

*Here are some key questions
and discussion points about the
book to get you started:*

- Why does Dylan feel so responsible for Beth's situation?
- Why does Beth like Dylan?
- Would you have made the same choice about the money as Dylan in the end?
- What do you think happens to the bank manager Max Gradual?
- Which bit of the story did you find the funniest?
- How do you think the story would have ended if Dylan had been found out?
- Is Dylan a good person?
- Look through the judging criteria for Reading Rampage. Does this book meet these? Discuss your opinions.



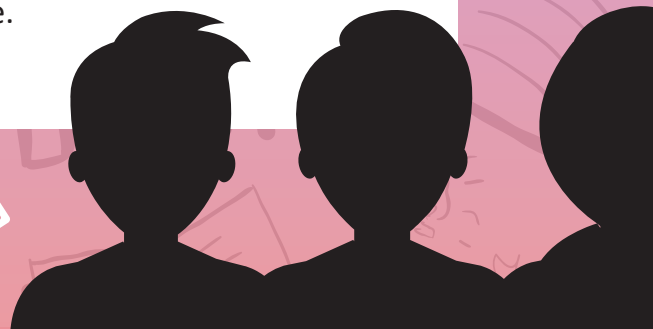
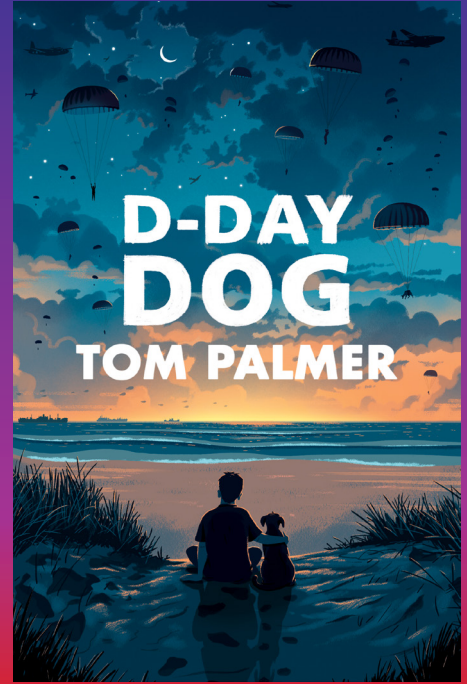
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D-Day Dog by Tom Palmer

Here are some key questions and discussion points about the book to get you started:

- In the early chapters of the book, we see an argument between Jack's parents about his deployment to Afghanistan. Discuss the two sides of the argument. Which do you agree with most?
- The term 'collateral damage' is used to describe those killed in the war accidentally. Do you think it is ok for innocent people to be injured or die for the good of many more?
- The character of Kasandra is a refugee from Syria. Why do you think the author chose to include her story in the book? What links can you make with WW2 and the people of France?
- The book looks at the role animals, such as dogs, played in the war and their bravery. What is your view of using animals in this way to help fight a war?
- The book gives us lots of historical facts about WW2. Which piece of information did you find the most interesting? Has the book made you want to find out more facts about the war yourself?
- The children visit lots of places on their trip to France. Are the settings described effectively and do you think the author has created atmosphere in his description of these locations? Choose one to look back at together.
- Look through the judging criteria for Reading Rampage. Does this book meet these? Discuss your opinions.



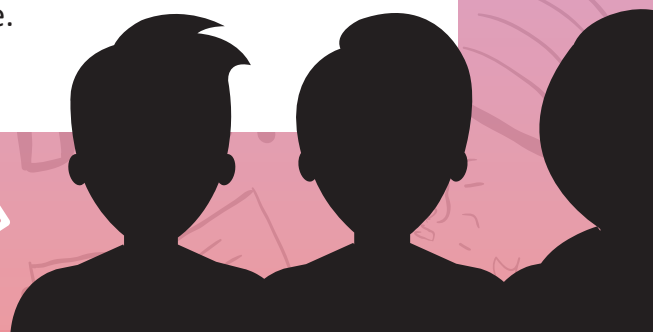
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No Escape by Jacqueline Rayner

*Here are some key questions
and discussion points about the
book to get you started:*

- Have you ever tried an escape room? What are the feelings that are generated while you are playing the game? Do you think an escape room is an effective setting for a story?
- The chapters are separated by timings. Why do you think the author has chosen to use this in their writing?
- The main theme of the story is bullying. What are your thoughts about what Paige and her gang have done to Marcie?
- What do you think Marcie might be thinking and feeling about what has happened?
- Each clue is linked to an incident. Are these believable and relatable to young people?
- Paige slowly starts to realise the links between the clues and the incidents. Why are the others unwilling to agree?
- There are some questions at the end of the final chapter about who might be responsible for the escape room. What's your opinion?
- Look through the judging criteria for Reading Rampage. Does this book meet these? Discuss your opinions.



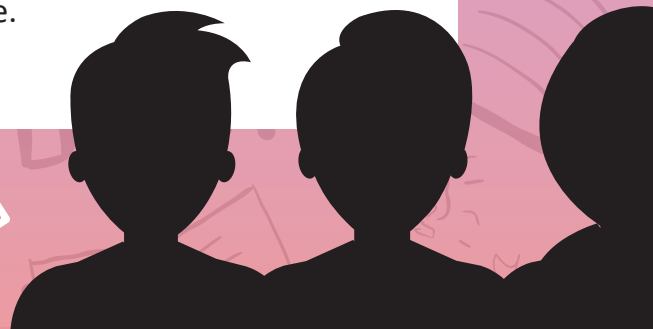
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Oh My Gods by Alexandra Sheppard

*Here are some key questions
and discussion points about the
book to get you started:*

- Throughout the story we are made aware of some interesting facts about Greek gods. Do you think this was a successful aspect of the story? Did it make you want to find out more?
- Helen writes letters to her mum who has passed away. Why do you think the author chose to use this device and was this effective? Discuss your views.
- Lots of the elements of the story are silly and humorous. Do you have a favourite funny part? Explain to other in the group why you liked this part.
- Although the book is essentially light-hearted, it has some more serious/less humorous elements. Think about these more carefully. What do you think these are?
- Think about the friendship between the four girls in the story. Why are these important to Helen?
- What do you think of the character of Cranus and his son who tricks Helen? Why do you think he treats the gods in this way?
- Discuss how the story ends and the sequence with the council of gods from Olympus. Was this a clever way of completing the story?
- Look through the judging criteria for Reading Rampage. Does this book meet these? Discuss your opinions.



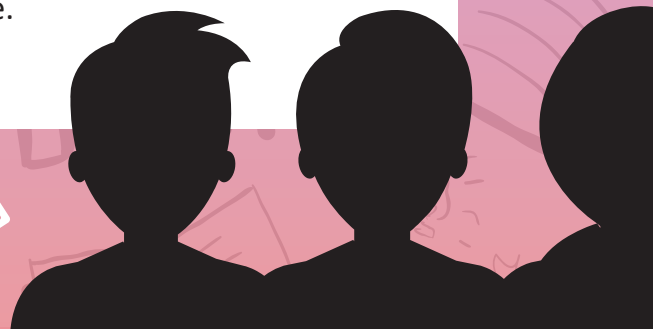
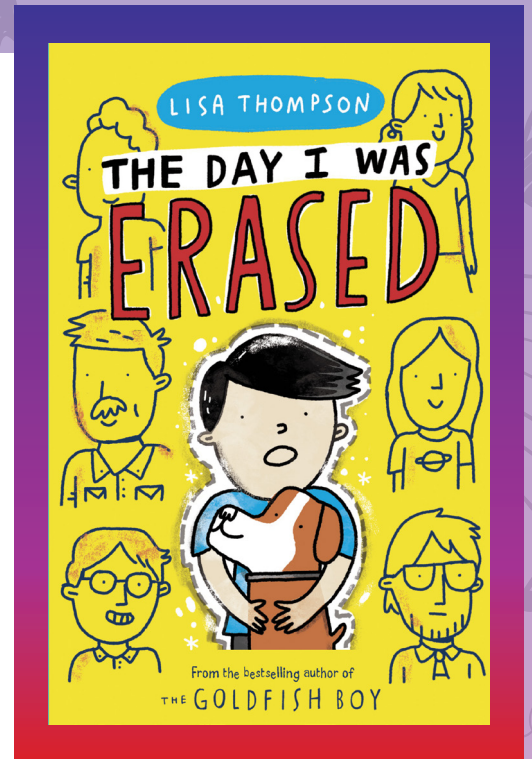
Book Group

READING NOTES

The Day I was Erased by Lisa Thompson

*Here are some key questions
and discussion points about the
book to get you started:*

- Do you think the negative way that some of the other characters treat Maxwell is sometimes justified? If so then why?
- Maxwell sometimes finds it difficult to manage his anger – what might you suggest to help him do this better?
- Many of the characters in this book have labels applied to them, such as “geek” or “troublemaker”. Do you think these labels can be helpful?
- Towards the end Reg reveals that he erased himself – do you think you would do the same thing in his position?
- Who was your favourite character in the book and why?
- Has this book changed how you think about disruptive pupils at your school?
- How do you think Maxwell’s character has changed by the end of the book?
- Look through the judging criteria for Reading Rampage. Does this book meet these? Discuss your opinions.



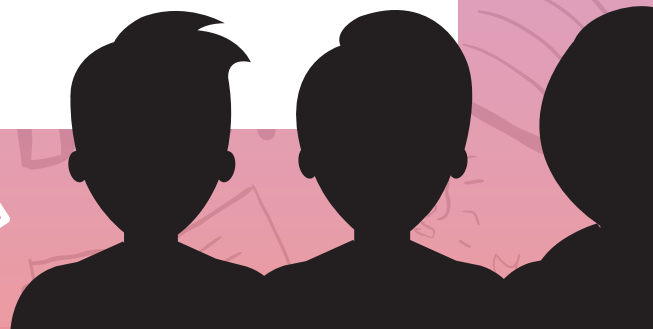
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The 1,000 Year Old Boy by Ross Welford

*Here are some key questions
and discussion points about the
book to get you started:*

- The book is told from two points of view; Alfie and Aiden. What did you think of this as a way of telling the story? How did it help you as a reader?
- Alfie has been around for a very long time. Why do you think he is ready to be an ordinary boy again?
- There are lots of periods in history that Alfie and his mother experienced. If you had the chance to experience a time from the past, when would it be and why?
- There are encounters with some famous people in history for Alfie and his mother. If you had the chance to meet a famous person from the past, who would it be and why?
- There are a number of strong characters in the story. Discuss which is your favourite and why.
- Who do you think is right about the liverperls? Should it be used to start Alfie's ageing again or used in medical research for the benefit of many?
- Look through the judging criteria for Reading Rampage. Does this book meet these? Discuss your opinions.



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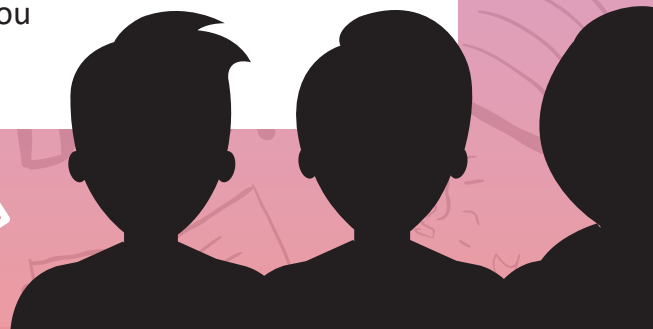
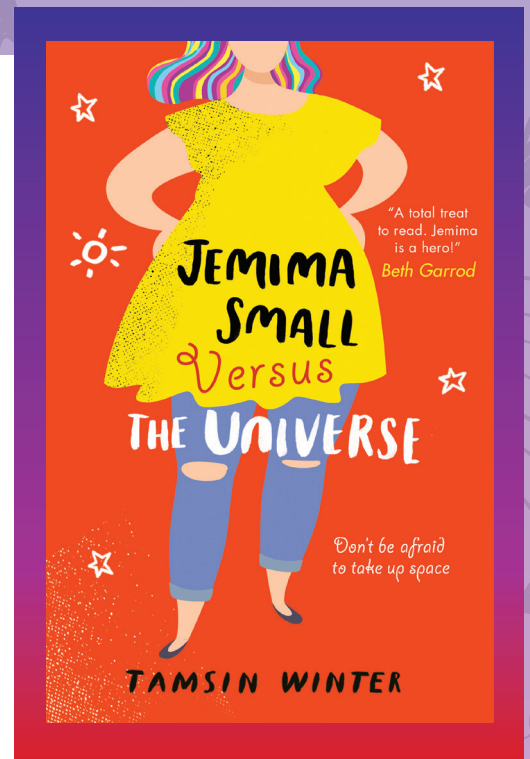
READING NOTES

Jemima Small Versus the Universe

by Tamsin Winter

Here are some key questions and discussion points about the book to get you started:

- Jemima is affected by the incident at the beach in Chapter 1 and her experience of bullying. Do you think the descriptions are accurate and why do you think the author chooses to be so direct about the issues Jemima faces?
- Jemima is really happy to have a best friend who cares a lot about her. Do you think the friendship is explored effectively in the story? Discuss a section of the story in which you think this is important.
- The author has cleverly included lots of interesting facts and knowledge into the story. Why is this helpful to students reading fiction? What was your favourite new fact/facts from the book?
- Jemima is reluctant at first to join with what she describes as 'Fat Club'. Later in the book, she is more positive about the club and Gina. Explore how her opinions changed and why this has happened.
- Think about Lottie's character and how she comes across in the story. Explore the way she treats Jemima. What advice would you give to Jemima about how to deal with Lottie's comments?
- Towards the end of the story Gina reveals something about herself and talks about body image and what makes us all individually special. How does this affect Jemima's view on herself and others?
- There are some great characters in the story. Who is your favourite and why do you like them?



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