



READING RAMPAGE 2020

BOOK GROUP
READING NOTES

SUPPORTED BY:



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Whatever
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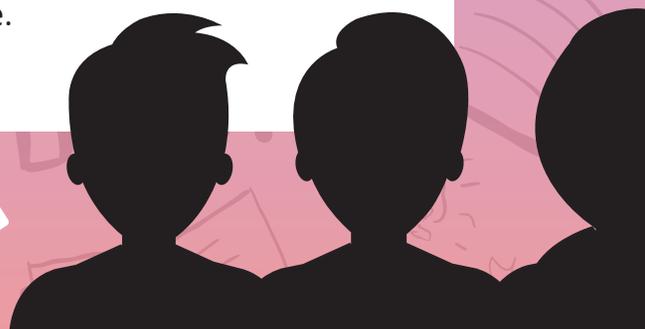
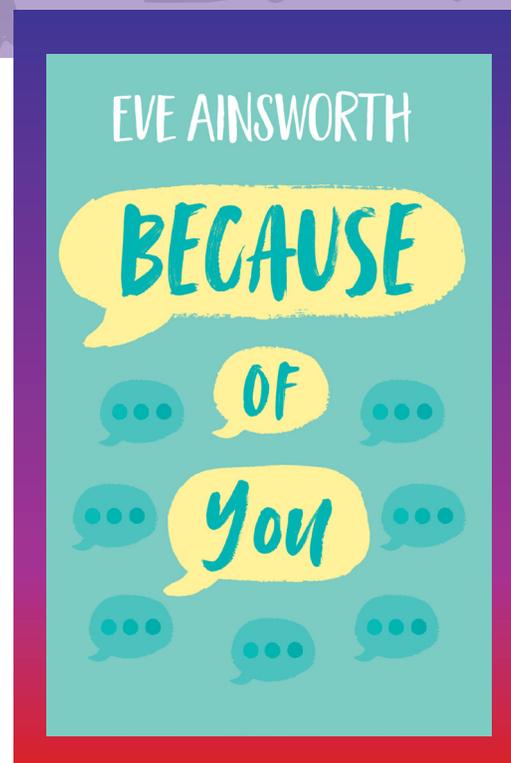
Book Group

READING NOTES

Because of You by Eve Ainsworth

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

- Why do you think Poppy is so unaware of the reasons her parents have separated?
- What do you think of Kayla, and how do you think she might feel about the family situation?
- Why is Richie so kind at the end of the story?
- Why do you think Lia is a bully?
- Do you think Poppy's response to the bullying is the right one?
- Poppy's friends, Daryl and Fliss, have different reactions to the bullying. Would you expect your best friends to react like them?
- Why does Emily join in with the bullying?
- Look through the judging criteria for Reading Rampage. Does this book meet these? Discuss your opinions.



Book Group

READING NOTES

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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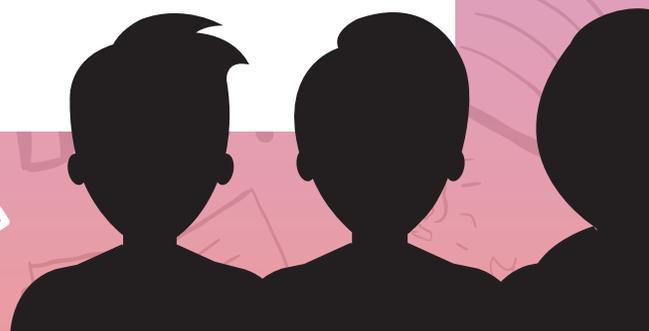
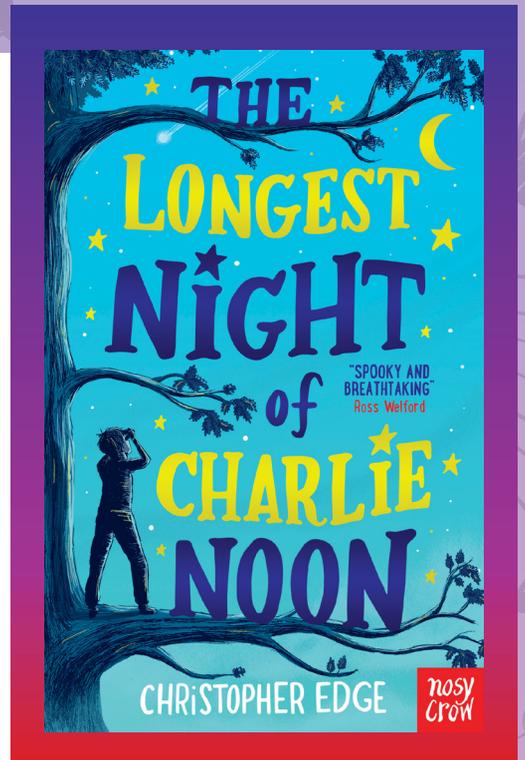
READING NOTES

The Longest Night of Charlie Noon

by Christopher Edge

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

- Charlie is sometimes treated differently to boys her age because she is a girl – do you think this is justified at all?
- Which personality traits help the three main characters to escape the woods, and do you think they make a good team?
- Did you guess which decade the book was set in before reading the final chapter?
What helped you to do this?
- Think of **three** words you would use to describe each of the three main characters before they go into the woods, and **three** words to describe each of them after they come out. How have these words changed?
- Charlie is told “*You are in time, you are on time, you have all the time in the world, and then you’re out of time, but you never really understand what time is.*” Now you have read the book, what do you think about time?
- The book ends with some notes about the Charlie, Dizzy and Johnny, written as if they were real historical people. Did you find those notes helpful, and did you learn anything new throughout the book?
- Christopher Edge’s books all address different scientific ideas through mystery and adventure stories. Do you want to read more books by this author?



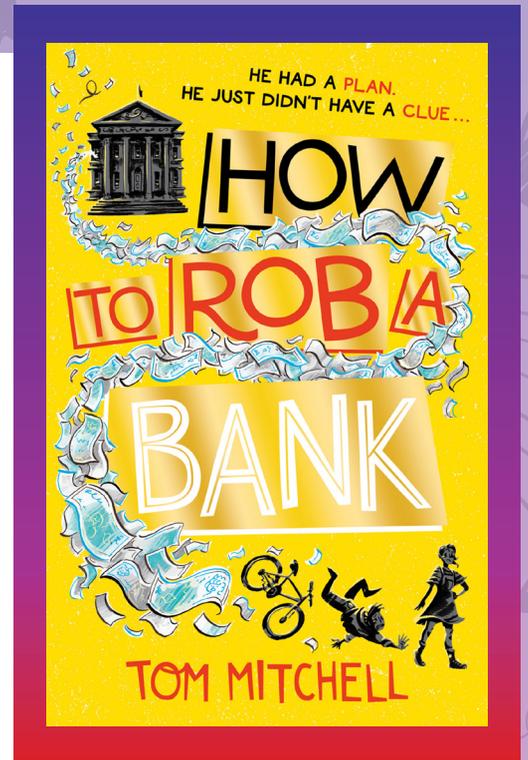
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READING NOTES

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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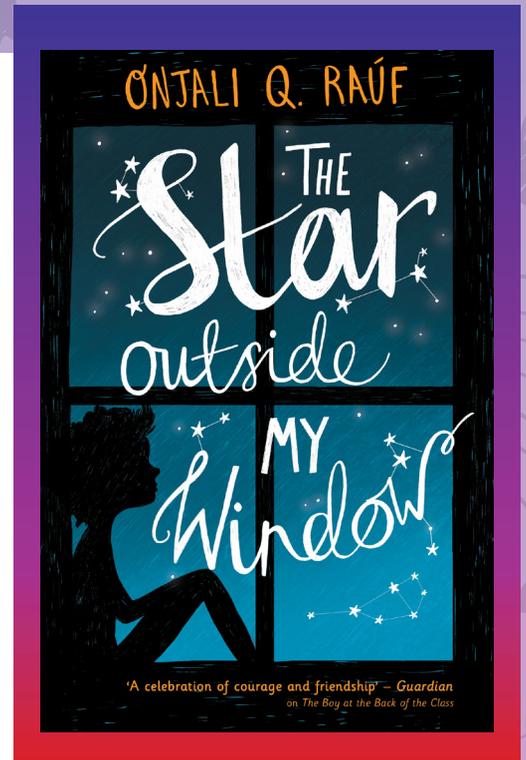
READING NOTES

The Star Outside my Window

by Onjali Q Rauf

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

- Throughout the story we are made well aware of Aniyah's fascination with stars and astronomy. Why do you think this is so important to her? Do you think this moves the plot along successfully?
- Why do you think the author chose to tell the story from Aniyah's point of view and not in the third person? Is this effective? Discuss your views.
- Think about the friendship between Aniyah and the boys Ben and Travis. Why do you think they are so eager to help and so loyal to her?
- What do you think of the character of Sophie? Why do you think she behaves as she does towards the other children in the house?
- The story sees the characters on a quest to find Greenwich. Do you think this sequence is effective in building tension? And why?
- The book examines some serious issues. Think about these more carefully. Do you think these are explored in an appropriate manner for your age group?
- Discuss how the story ends. How does this make you feel?
- Look through the notes from the author at the very end of the book. Discuss how this links with the plot and the experiences of the characters.



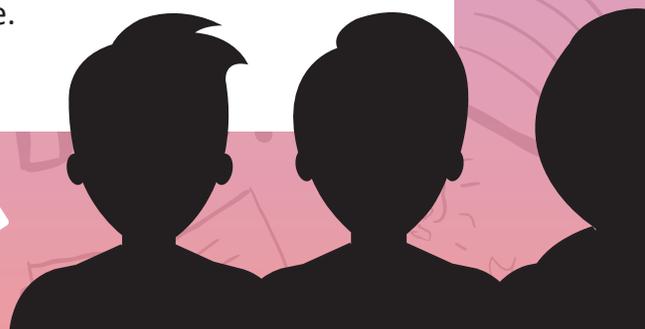
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READING NOTES

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 an clever way of completing the story?
- Look through the judging criteria for Reading Rampage. Does this book meet these? Discuss your opinions.



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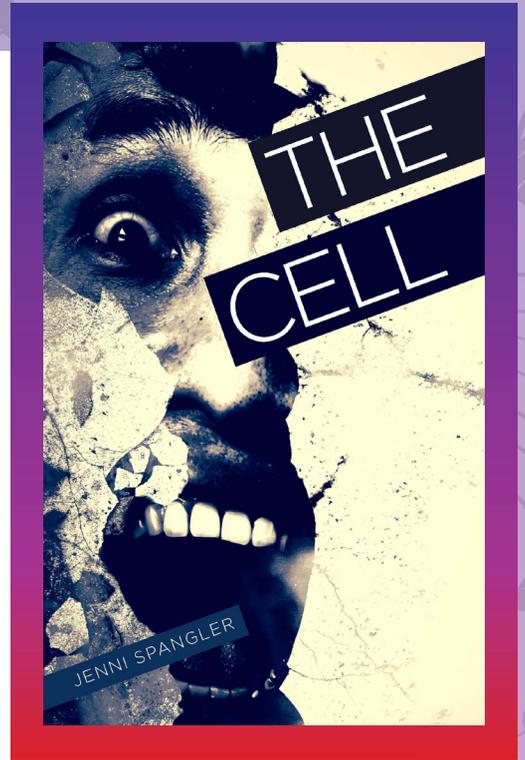
READING NOTES

The Cell

by Jenni Spangler

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

- What do you think happened to Josh in the old shopping centre?
Take 5 minutes to decide in pairs/groups then share your ideas and give your reasons.
- Although Josh has a camera to film events at the beginning of the story, neither the characters or the reader get to see very much. How do we know what is going on and why has the writer done this?
- We leave Gran and Raheem's sister, Zainab, early in the story at their house. What do you think they might be doing and thinking while Raheem is away?
- What kind of person is Raheem? Sum him up in **five** descriptive words then share with the rest of the group. Did you all pick the same character traits?
- The story ends with Raheem still trapped in his prison cell at the police station rather than coming to a conclusion. Is this a satisfying way to finish in your opinion and what do you think might happen next?
- Look through the judging criteria for Reading Rampage. Does this book meet these? Discuss your opinions.



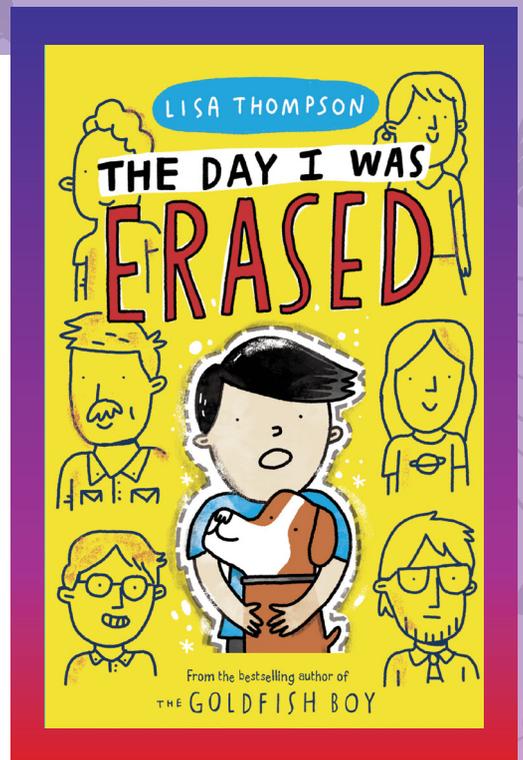
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READING NOTES

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.



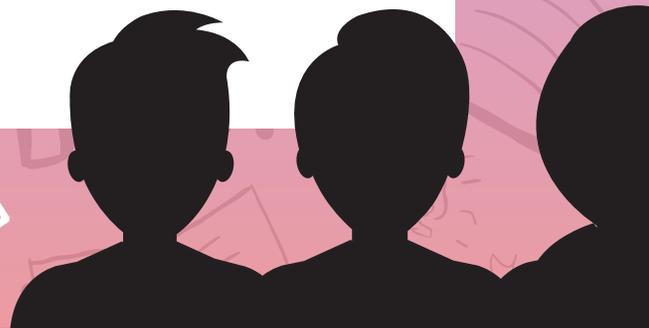
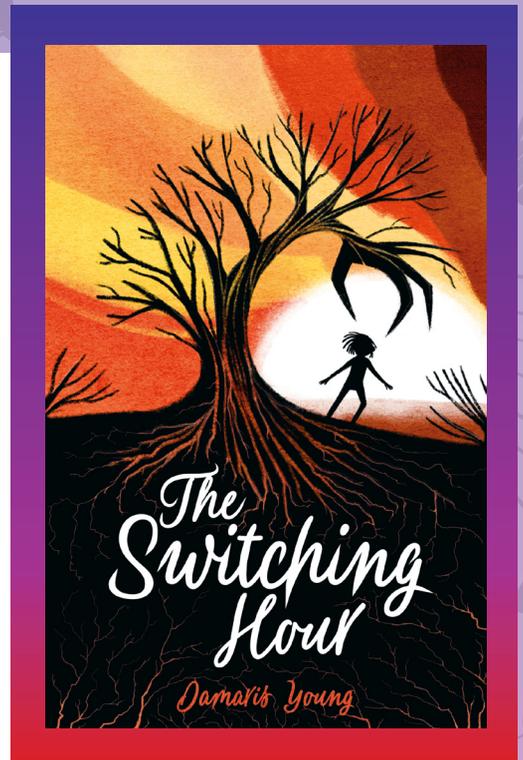
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READING NOTES

The Switching Hour by Damaris Young

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

- The Switching Hour was heavily influenced by the author's childhood whilst living and growing up in Africa. Can you think of different ways that Amaya and Mally use their knowledge and skills to live in the natural world?
- Granny has strict rules Amaya and Kaleb are supposed to follow. Do you think this is a good way to be brought up? Do you think it has any good or bad effects on Amaya?
- Badeko grows strong by feeding on dreams. It was "born by the drought and passed away with the rains. Death and rebirth. Over and over again." What do you think the purpose of this nightmare creature is in the story?
- What do you think matters to Mally in the story and how does she show it?
- Amaya's family live by the lake in open grassland, Mally's family are from the forest. If you were a character in this story which place would you live in and why?
- Do you think the characters in the story will still love each other if they can't remember them? How important is memory in maintaining relationships?
- Look through the judging criteria for Reading Rampage. Does this book meet these? Discuss your opinions.



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