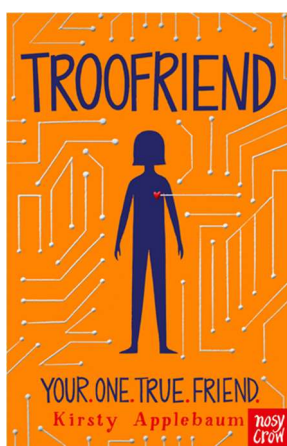


# READING RAMPAGE

## 2022 Book Talking Notes

Author	Title
Kirsty Applebaum	TrooFriend
<p>Good friends are great, right? Just imagine a world where you can have <i>the</i> perfect friend, one who never steals lies or bullies. Well now it is possible...Jenson &amp; Jenson have invented the TrooFriend 560, the latest in artificial intelligence! <i>Read Chapter 1 – Page 1 - 3 as introduction</i></p> <p>Sarah is not particularly impressed with her mum's new purchase; a brand new android TrooFriend named Ivy. In fact, she would rather have a dog! After first feeling reluctant to accept her new 'friend' she realises that taking Ivy to Bring Your Tech to School Day could really impress her school friends and help her fit in more.</p> <p>What could possibly go wrong with an android buddy then? News reports about the TrooFriend 560 and their worrying behaviour start to become a reality for Sarah. If Ivy is just a piece of technology, why is she afraid of the dark, and why has she begun to develop human characteristics, feelings and behaviours?</p> <p>The story is told to us from Ivy's point of view giving a real insight into what is really going on... or wrong with the technology. Sinister and gripping examination of artificial intelligence and friendship.</p>	



# READING RAMPAGE

## 2022 Book Talking Notes

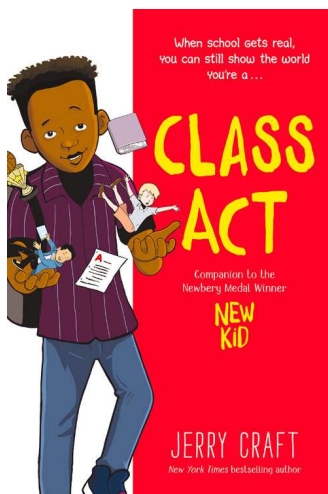
<i>Author</i>	<i>Title</i>
Chris Bradford	The Soul Hunters
<p>Have you ever experienced dreams so vivid it seems like you have lived them? Or had déjà vu so strong you're convinced you must have been there before?</p> <p>Well, Genna, the main character is about to find out the reason she has such feelings a lot of the time. The story opens with a sacrificial ceremony in 2500 BC and immediately the reader is hooked. Switch to present-day, teenage Genna's life is the same as most her age until events at a museum and the appearance of a sinister stranger she encounters looking at an exhibit of knife. Soon her world will be turned upside down.</p> <p>After she is ambushed in a park, she escapes with the help of another more helpful, mysterious stranger. Terror combines with bewilderment when she is then kidnapped by the same gang and, once again, rescued by the same young man. Introducing himself as Phoenix, he reveals that Genna is a 'First Ascendant', a reincarnating soul from the dawn of humankind. Reborn as her protector in each life, Phoenix must shield her from Tanas, an evil 'incarnate' who is intent on extinguishing the light of humanity by destroying Genna's soul.</p> <p>Along the way, we see flashbacks of Genna's previous lives: a Roman senator's daughter, a Cheyenne horsewoman and a samurai warrior, all transporting readers to different historical periods. A thrilling plot, exciting characters and fast-paced fantasy adventure.</p>	



# READING RAMPAGE

## 2022 Book Talking Notes

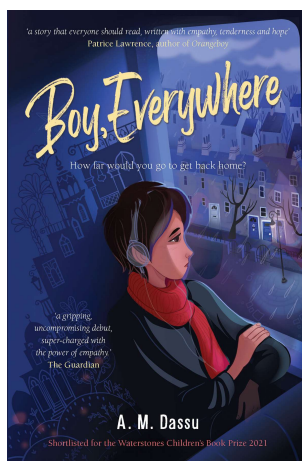
<i>Author</i>	<i>Title</i>
Jerry Craft	Class Act
<p>This superb Graphic Novel is both a fun and thoughtful story about Drew and his friends as they try to muddle through middle school in America.</p> <p>Drew feels like he has always had to work twice as hard as some of the other more 'privileged' students just because of the colour of his skin. He feels uncomfortable and isolated when he begins to worry that one of his best friends Liam, might be one of those privileged people who takes everything for granted.</p> <p>It is going to be up to Jordan, who is stuck in the middle, to keep their group of friends together. But can Jordan do that when he has enough of his own worries about who he is and who he wants to be?</p> <p>The comic book illustrations are beautifully done and vibrant, but the issues are big and important. There is lots to think about in this brilliant tale of class, friendship and self-acceptance.</p>	



# READING RAMPAGE

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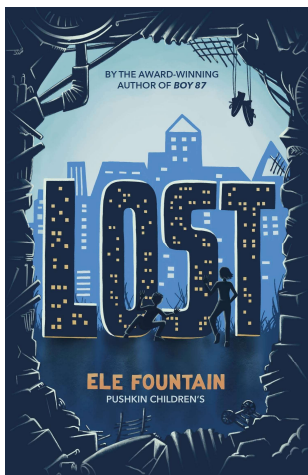
<i>Author</i>	<i>Title</i>
A M Dassu	Boy, Everywhere
<p>This is an extraordinary tale of survival and bravery from start to finish. It is a completely and utterly engrossing story of 13-year-old Sami and his family as devastating events in their country mean they have to flee from their comfortable homes in Damascus, Syria, across the sea and eventually arriving in the UK.</p> <p>Their journey is full of danger, constant anxiety and they have to make some terrifying decisions to enable them to make it to the UK. There is racism and prejudice thrown towards them throughout and the scene where Sami and his Dad are first in a detention centre will stay with you, it's completely heart-breaking. Yet, it is full of hope too, despite you journeying with them through their ordeal as Syrian refugees; you see moments of compassion and kindness and as you're reading it.</p> <p>It gives you the opportunity to really think about how you would have felt if this was you or think about how you would have reacted to the family moving into your street.</p> <p>Be prepared to be thoroughly challenged, gripped and hopeful in equal measure.</p>	



# READING RAMPAGE

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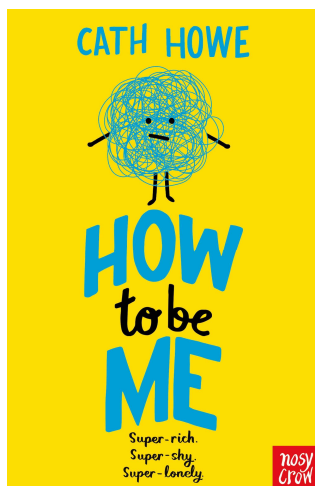
<i>Author</i>	<i>Title</i>
Ele Fountain	Lost
<p>Read pages 9-10 "Street".</p> <p>So this is what happens to Lola and Amit. They live in a nice flat with a maid and their father and all they could ever want for. The setting is described as a hustling bustling city which is never named but gives lots of clues that point to it being somewhere in Asia, but the beauty is that it could be many different locations. Their father is often away from home on business, but then one day he doesn't come home. The siblings find they are soon being hounded by the landlord as their father hasn't paid the rent. So, with nowhere to go they end up on the streets and very quickly, they lose each other.</p> <p>We follow the story of Lola as she strives to survive as a 'street rat' whilst never giving up hope of finding her father and her brother.</p> <p>It is a beautiful touching story that is a gripping tale of adventure and survival, whilst a powerful story of friendship, family, desperate poverty and never giving up hope.</p>	



# READING RAMPAGE

## 2022 Book Talking Notes

<i>Author</i>	<i>Title</i>
Cath Howe	How to be Me
<p>Lucas is lonely. His Dad is rich and they live in a massive house, but his Dad is marrying Vanessa, and has no time for Lucas anymore. He will not even talk about Lucas's mum, who died.</p> <p>Therefore, when his Dad enrolls Lucas in a drama club to keep him out of his way, Lucas is NOT happy. He hates it there and feels so different from the other kids – especially rude and chaotic Keeley, with her very sticky little baby brother.</p> <p>However, the two slowly start to become friends and Lucas finds his whole life changing.</p> <p>And when the drama club is under threat, it's Lucas who steps up and becomes the hero. This is a satisfying story about a shy boy who finds his voice and confidence, and a family healing from grief.</p>	

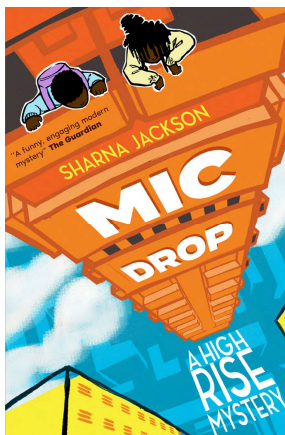




# READING RAMPAGE

## 2022 Book Talking Notes

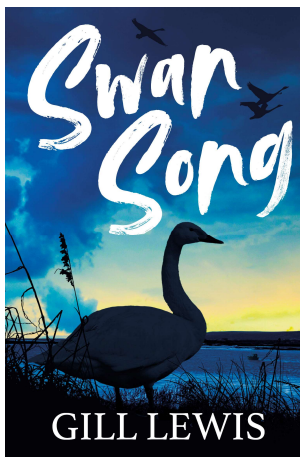
<i>Author</i>	<i>Title</i>
Sharna Jackson	Mic Drop: A High Rise Mystery
<p>Amateur sleuth siblings Nik and Norva investigate a murder on their estate- one that they witnessed with their own eyes...</p> <p>They live in one of three high-rise tower blocks called The Tri and one of The Tri's previous residents is Katarzyna Clarke- or 'TrojKat'- and is an up-and-coming hotter-than-hot popstar.</p> <p>She is returned to The Tri to film a music video but whilst doing a daring stunt on the top of one of the blocks of flats she falls to her death.</p> <p>Who was to blame? Was it her secret boyfriend? Her manager? Her jealous childhood friend? Or someone else closer to home?</p> <p>This is the second book in the series but like all good detective stories it has its own mystery to solve so you don't need to have read the first one (but I would definitely recommend reading the first one- it's called High Rise Mystery).</p>	



# READING RAMPAGE

## 2022 Book Talking Notes

<i>Author</i>	<i>Title</i>
Gill Lewis	Swan Song
<p>Dylan is having a difficult time at school and people can see he has really changed. He's just started his new secondary school and everything is somehow getting on top of him.</p> <p>When he is permanently excluded, Dylan and his mum have no alternative but to move to a small seaside town in Wales to live with his grandad, who he has never really met before.</p> <p>At first, Dylan is uncertain of this new place with no TV or internet. He feels a bit different from other people in the town and a bit lost.</p> <p>However, when his grandad takes Dylan out on his boat to fish and watch the whooper swans return to their winter feeding ground, things begin to change. Grandad does not judge or question, and out in nature, without the distractions and pressures of school, Dylan begins to feel like himself again, the Dylan he used to be.</p> <p>But when things begin to go wrong again, it's up to Dylan to step up.</p>	





# READING RAMPAGE

## 2022 Book Talking Notes

Author	Title
Ross MacKenzie	Evernight
<p>Lara and Joe make a living as toshers, scouring the sewers to find and sell the things other people lose or throw away. It is a hard life, but when rumours arrive of a mysterious man with no shadow murdering toshers, things start to get a lot more dangerous.</p> <p><i>Extract p 72-74 (Encounter between Shadow Jack and Vin Cotton's tosher gang in sewers)</i></p> <p>Who is the mysterious Shadow Jack? He is the servant of powerful witch Mrs Hester, sent to find a wooden box, which contains an important treasure. For Mrs Hester longs to possess the Mother Tree, the source of all magic in the world. She thinks that the treasure in the box will help her to control the Evernight, an evil eternal darkness. Once released, the Evernight would cause chaos and destruction upon the world. With it, she could wipe out all other witches on the planet and claim the Mother Tree for herself.</p> <p>Soon Lara and Joe's destinies are intertwined with the fate of the world, the race to find the spell and stop the Evernight before Mrs Hester and Shadow Jack do.</p> <p>This exciting dark fantasy will keep you on the edge of your seat.</p>	



# READING RAMPAGE

## 2022 Book Talking Notes

<i>Author</i>	<i>Title</i>
Elle McNicoll	A Kind of Spark
<p>Despite the bright pink cover, this story features a dark and troubling part of our history- witch hunting.</p> <p>It follows the story of Addie who is learning about the witch trials that happened in her village for a local history project. She is horrified to learn why these women were persecuted and is inspired to learn more about their stories.</p> <p>Addie is autistic and identifies with the women who were on trial, as they, like her, were deemed as 'different' by the people around her, and thus a threat to society.</p> <p>Can Addie be a voice for those who were silenced and get justice for their stories, and herself?</p> <p>EXTRACT- page 23-25 (introduction to witch hunting in school)</p>	



# READING RAMPAGE

## 2022 Book Talking Notes

<i>Author</i>	<i>Title</i>
Dan Smith	The Invasion of Crooked Oak
<p>Meet Pete, Nancy and Krish, a group of school friends and the strange goings on in their village, Crooked Oak ever since the fracking site there closed; adults in the village have changed their behaviour and are acting very strangely. Blank eyes, a weird smell and hiding from the light.</p> <p>As things start to get worse, the three friends Pete, Nancy and Krish get the feeling that something is trying to take over. Determined to find out what is really going on they use the inspiration of their favourite website The Mystery Shed to help them on their quest. Can they stop it before it affects everyone in Crooked Oak?</p> <p>A mixture of mystery, sci-fi and horror, the book is an intriguing adventure with various, and sometimes sinister, plot twists and turns.</p> <p>Extract P4 – from “Do you guys want to hear something....” to P7 “... when they got back.”</p>	



# READING RAMPAGE

## 2022 Book Talking Notes

<i>Author</i>	<i>Title</i>
Ross Welford	The Kid who came from Space
<p>Do you have brothers or sisters? Or if not, perhaps cousins? Imagine if one of them went missing. Police would be everywhere, reporters asking questions, everyone, including you, trying to guess where they might have gone. It would be awful, terrifying! Well, that is the scene here on earth. Ethan is sick with worry wondering where his sister Tammy might have disappeared.</p> <p>However, who would imagine that they were light years away, on another planet, in a zoo, in an exhibit called 'Earth Zone'?</p> <p>Now imagine you are an alien visiting the zoo, looking through an invisible force field at the newly arrived creature, a human child... (Read from start of Chapter 1 to "Hearters, but – obviously – she was not.")</p> <p>On Hellyann's world, everyone follows the rules and most people do not seem to have any feelings. Hellyann is one of the rare people that does, but it is not safe to show them. Hellyann feels for Tammy and is determined to rescue her and return her to Earth.</p> <p>Back on earth, Ethan wants his sister back and will do anything to get her.</p> <p>When Ethan and Hellyann meet and, along with Philip the spaceship, Ethan's friend Iggy and his pet chicken Suzy, the adventure really begins. However, can they bring Tammy home, safe and sound?</p> <p>This a story of courage, empathy and teamwork. A book that explores what it really means to be human. A nail-biting adventure with a great sense of humour.</p>	

