



Fisher More Presents

# READ MORE BOOKS!



A TERMLY NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER 2023

Issue 1



Hello and welcome to “**READ MORE BOOKS**”, Fisher More’s brand-new reading newsletter.

Each term, we will explore **what we’re currently reading in lessons at school** and **recommend books** from a range of genres and styles.

We hope you enjoy this issue!

The English Department

What we’re reading in...

# YEAR 7

**EnOLA**  
**HOLMES**

This term, our Year 7 pupils will embark on a thrilling literary journey as they delve into the world of Enola Holmes!

"Enola Holmes" by Nancy Springer is a captivating novel that introduces readers to the lesser-known, brilliant younger sister of the world-famous detective, Sherlock Holmes. Set in Victorian London, the story follows the spirited and resourceful Enola Holmes as she embarks on a thrilling journey of self-discovery and mystery-solving.

Enola's life takes a dramatic turn when her mother mysteriously disappears, leaving behind a series of cryptic clues. Unwilling to conform to the societal norms imposed on young women of her time, Enola sets out to find her missing mother, defying the expectations of her older brothers, Sherlock and Mycroft. Along the way, she encounters an array of colourful characters and navigates the complexities of a changing world.

With a sharp wit, keen observation skills, and a knack for disguise, Enola becomes a detective in her own right, tackling various cases and uncovering secrets while dodging danger and staying one step ahead of her brothers. As she unravels the mysteries surrounding her mother's disappearance, Enola also grapples with her own identity and place in a society that often underestimates her.

Nancy Springer's enchanting narrative not only weaves a compelling mystery but also explores themes of feminism, independence, and the power of self-belief. "Enola Holmes" is a delightful blend of historical fiction, adventure, and detective intrigue that will leave readers both entertained and inspired by its courageous and unconventional heroine. Whether you're a fan of Sherlock Holmes or simply enjoy a good mystery, this novel offers a fresh and engaging perspective on the iconic detective's family, making it a must-read for all ages.

Genre: Mystery, Crime, Adventure Reading Age: 10-14



What we're reading in...

# YEAR 8

"A Monster Calls" by Patrick Ness is a hauntingly beautiful and emotionally charged novel that delves into the depths of grief, loss, and the complexity of human emotions. At its heart, it is a story about a young boy named Conor O'Malley who is struggling to come to terms with his mother's terminal illness.

Conor's life is filled with turmoil and confusion as he grapples with his mother's deteriorating health, his strained relationship with his distant grandmother, and the relentless bullying he faces at school. But amidst this turmoil, Conor is visited by a monstrous tree-like creature that appears at his window one night. This imposing monster is here to deliver a series of stories and to demand one thing in return from Conor: the truth.

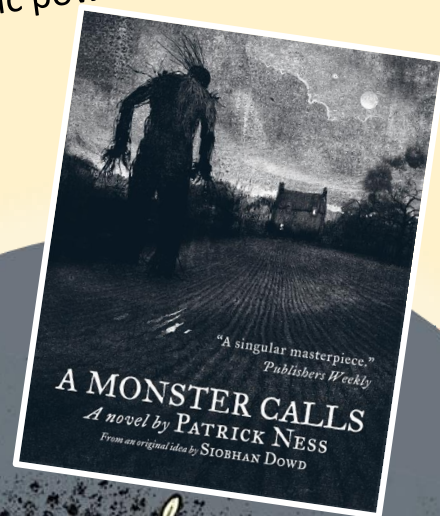
As the monster's stories unfold, Conor is forced to confront his deepest fears and emotions, gradually coming to terms with the complexity of his feelings about his mother's illness and the impending loss. The monster serves as a conduit for Conor to express his anger, fear, and guilt, allowing him to navigate the turbulent sea of emotions that come with grief.

Patrick Ness's writing is both poignant and lyrical, and it beautifully captures the raw and painful aspects of grief and the healing power of storytelling. The novel explores themes of truth, acceptance, and the transformative nature of pain, making it a profound and thought-provoking read. As the story unfolds, readers are taken on a powerful and emotional journey alongside Conor, ultimately leaving them with a profound message about the nature of loss and the importance of confronting our inner demons.

"A Monster Calls" is a masterful work that combines elements of fantasy, realism, and deeply human emotion, making it a must-read for anyone seeking a moving and unforgettable exploration of the human condition. It is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the cathartic power of storytelling in the face of life's most challenging moments.

Genre: Fantasy Reading Age: 10-14

He there, True Believers! Are you interested in Marvel, DC and other great comics creators? Do know your Todd McFarlane from your Steve Ditko? Well, if this sounds like your cup of tea, check out information about Mr Hoole's Comic Club on the next page...





# MR HOOLE'S COMIC BOOK CLUB

## WEEKLY COMICS CLUB

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*MONDAY PERIOD 4*

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*MR HOOLE'S ROOM  
(ENG 1)*

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**BE THERE!**

I'm **BATMAN!**

When I'm not brooding about the state of criminality on the streets of Gotham City, I like to unwind by reading **comic books**.

If you're interested in comics and want a quiet place to **chat, read or talk about comic books**, get yourself to English 1 on Mondays (Period 4).

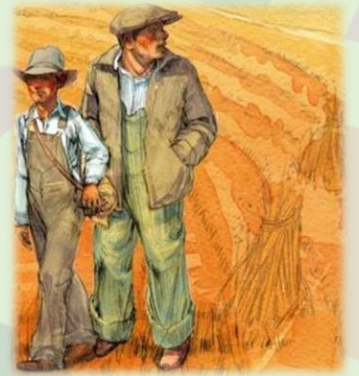
Mr Hoole will be **analysing a new comic panel every week** and talking about the artists and writers he loves the most. Feel free to bring your lunch!

## **ALL WELCOME!**



What we're reading in...

# YEAR 9



"Of Mice and Men" by John Steinbeck is a classic American novella that explores the dreams, friendship, and hardships of two itinerant ranch workers during the Great Depression. Set against the backdrop of the rugged Salinas Valley in California, the story revolves around the unlikely companionship of George Milton and Lennie Small.

George is a sharp-witted, practical man, while Lennie is physically strong but mentally challenged. Together, they share a dream of owning a piece of land and living off the fat of the land, a dream that offers them hope and solace in a world marked by economic hardship and loneliness.

As they seek employment on a ranch and forge connections with their fellow laborers, including the old and handicapped Candy and the flirtatious Curley's wife, their dream seems both within reach and impossibly distant. The challenges they face and the characters they encounter test the strength of their friendship and the viability of their dreams.

Steinbeck's prose is rich with vivid descriptions of the California landscape and characters, and he skilfully explores themes of isolation, the American Dream, and the harsh realities of society during the Depression era. The novella is a poignant commentary on the vulnerability of human dreams in the face of circumstance and fate.

The tragic climax of the story leaves a lasting impact, highlighting the profound emotional connection between George and Lennie and the cruel inevitability of their circumstances. "Of Mice and Men" is a deeply moving exploration of the human condition, capturing both the fragility of dreams and the enduring power of friendship in a world filled with hardship and disappointment. It remains a timeless classic that continues to resonate with readers, offering a window into the struggles and aspirations of ordinary people during one of America's most challenging periods in history.

**Genre: Social realism Reading Age: 13+**



## STOP!

If you're struggling with reading challenges or are stuck with your Bedrock tasks, then don't worry: HELP IS AT HAND!

The **LRC** is open at lunchtime, where you'll have access to books, computers and the expertise of Mrs Bowden! Also, please see your English teacher about **FM's after-school reading workshops!**

# WHY IS

# READING



# SO IMPORTANT?

Hey there, fellow bookworms in the making! If you've ever wondered why your teachers, parents, and librarians keep urging you to read more, you're in the right place. Let's unlock the secrets of why reading is so important, especially during your secondary school years.

1. **Expanding Your Mind:** reading is like a passport to new worlds. When you dive into a book, you embark on exciting adventures, explore unfamiliar places, and meet intriguing characters. Through reading, you can experience different cultures, historical periods, and even travel through time—all from the comfort of your own room! It's like having a superpower that lets you see the world through countless perspectives.
2. **Boosting Your Brainpower:** did you know that reading is like a workout for your brain? It helps improve your vocabulary, comprehension skills, and critical thinking abilities. The more you read, the better you become at understanding complex ideas and expressing your thoughts clearly. Plus, it can boost your grades and make you a more confident student.
3. **Building Empathy:** in the pages of a book, you can step into someone else's shoes and see the world from their viewpoint. This fosters empathy, which is the ability to understand and share the feelings of others. As you read about characters with diverse backgrounds and experiences, you become more compassionate and open-minded, making you a better friend and global citizen.
4. **Fuelling Creativity:** reading sparks your imagination. When you read, your mind paints vivid pictures of the story's settings and characters. This helps you develop your creative thinking and problem-solving skills. In fact, many of the world's most imaginative people, like inventors and writers, are avid readers themselves.
5. **Reducing Stress:** life can be hectic, especially during your school years. Reading offers a wonderful escape from the daily grind. When you get lost in a good book, your stress levels drop, and you feel more relaxed. It's a healthy way to unwind and recharge.
6. **Preparing for the Future:** no matter what career path you choose, strong reading skills will be your allies. Whether you're analysing data, writing reports, or understanding complex documents, reading will be a crucial part of your success. It's like the secret sauce that makes you stand out in the real world.



So, there you have it, folks! Reading is not just about words on a page; it's a superpower that can change your life. It opens doors to new knowledge, enhances your thinking, and helps you become a more empathetic and creative person. So, grab a book, immerse yourself in its pages, and let the magic of reading take you on incredible journeys. Your future self will thank you for it!



What we're reading in...

# YEAR 10



As our new year 10s make the transfer to Key Stage 4, pupils will be introduced to JB Priestley's enduring play, "An Inspector Calls".

"An Inspector Calls" by J.B. Priestley is a riveting and thought-provoking play that explores the consequences of one family's actions on the eve of World War I. Set in the fictional town of Brumley, the story opens with the Birling family—wealthy, complacent, and self-assured—celebrating the engagement of their daughter, Sheila, to Gerald Croft. The evening takes a dramatic turn when an unexpected visitor arrives: Inspector Goole.

Inspector Goole is there to investigate the suicide of a young woman named Eva Smith. Through a series of relentless and probing questions, he reveals that each member of the Birling family has played a role in Eva's downfall. As the layers of deception, cruelty, and indifference are peeled back, it becomes clear that their actions collectively led to her tragic demise.

The play serves as a scathing critique of the moral hypocrisy and social inequality prevalent in Edwardian England. Priestley uses Inspector Goole as a symbol of justice and moral accountability, forcing the Birling family to confront their own flaws and complicity in Eva's suffering. As the inspector's investigation unfolds, secrets are exposed, and the Birling family's facade of respectability crumbles.

"An Inspector Calls" is not just a mystery but also a powerful social commentary. It highlights the interconnectedness of human actions and the repercussions of callousness and selfishness. The play challenges the characters—and the audience—to reflect on their responsibilities to society and the importance of empathy and compassion.

Ultimately, "An Inspector Calls" is a timeless and thought-provoking work that continues to resonate with audiences, reminding us of the enduring relevance of its themes and the importance of social justice and moral integrity. It's a compelling exploration of the consequences of our actions and a call to examine our own behaviour in the context of a larger, interconnected world.

**Genre: Morality play Reading Age: 14+**

AN  
INSPECTOR  
CALLS



*“Oh! But he was a tight-fisted hand at the grindstone, Scrooge! a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous, old sinner!”*



*What we're reading in...*

# YEAR II

"A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens is a timeless and heart-warming novella that has become a beloved classic of holiday literature. Set in Victorian London, it tells the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, a miserly and cold-hearted old man who despises Christmas and everything associated with it.

The story begins on Christmas Eve when Scrooge is visited by the ghost of his former business partner, Jacob Marley, who has been condemned to wander the earth in chains as punishment for his own greed and selfishness in life. Marley warns Scrooge that he will share the same fate unless he changes his ways. To aid Scrooge in his transformation, Marley tells him that he will be visited by three spirits that night.

Throughout the course of the night, Scrooge is visited by the Ghost of Christmas Past, the Ghost of Christmas Present, and the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come (also known as the Phantom!). These spirits take Scrooge on a journey through time, showing him scenes from his own past, the joyous celebrations of the present, and the bleak and lonely future that awaits him if he continues down his current path.

As Scrooge witnesses the love, kindness, and generosity of those around him, especially the Cratchit family, who struggle with poverty but remain full of Christmas spirit, he undergoes a profound transformation. He realizes the errors of his ways and becomes determined to change, embracing the true spirit of Christmas and committing himself to a life of goodwill and charity.

Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" is a story of redemption, forgiveness, and the power of human compassion, empathy, and the joy of giving. Through the character of Ebenezer Scrooge, Dickens teaches us that it is never too late to change and that even the coldest of hearts can be warmed by the spirit of Christmas. This enduring tale continues to touch the hearts of readers of all ages and serves as a timeless reminder of the true meaning of the holiday season.

**Genre:** Festive ghost story **Reading Age:** 9+



# COMPETITION

## LOVE READING?

READ A GOOD BOOK RECENTLY?

Would you like to get PUBLISHED in next term's READ MORE BOOKS newsletter?

Fisher More High School is thrilled to announce a unique opportunity for all our students in years 7 to 11. We're on the hunt for **book reviews** that showcase your love for reading and your literary insights. And guess what? Your reviews could be featured in our upcoming term's newsletter, reaching a wide audience of fellow students, parents and staff! Here's how to get involved:

- 1. Pick Your Book:** choose a book that you've recently read and that has left a lasting impression on you. It could be a thrilling adventure, a heart-warming story, a mind-boggling mystery, or anything else that has captured your imagination.
- 2. Pen Your Thoughts:** put your thoughts into words! Craft a compelling review that highlights the book's plot, characters, themes, and what you loved most about it. Be as creative and expressive as you'd like; this is your chance to shine as a young literary critic.
- 3. Submit Your Review:** all review submissions should be sent to Mr. Hoole in the English department. You can drop off your written review at English 1. Make sure to include your name, year group, and the book's title and author. Don't forget to add a captivating title to your review!

This competition is open to students from years **7 to 11**, so whether you're just starting your literary journey or are a seasoned bookworm, we want to hear from you! Your reviews could inspire others to dive into the wonderful world of literature.

HERE'S HOW:

# Fisher More's Recommended Reads

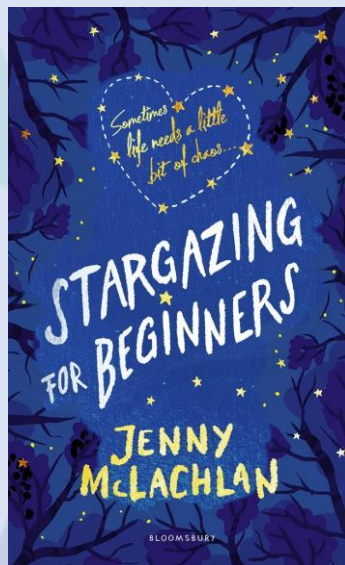


Science geek Meg is left to look after her little sister for ten days after her free-spirited mum leaves suddenly to follow up yet another of her Big Important Causes. But while Meg may understand how the universe was formed, baby Elsa is a complete mystery to her.

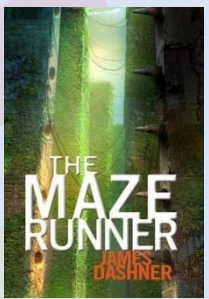
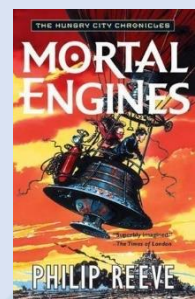
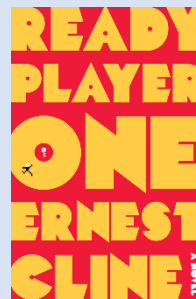
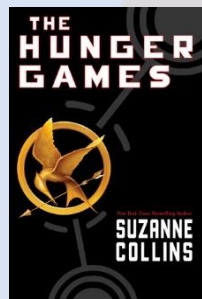
And Mum's disappearance has come at the worst time: Meg is desperate to win a competition to get the chance to visit NASA headquarters, but to do this she has to beat close rival Ed. Can Meg pull off this double life of caring for Elsa and following her own dreams? She'll need a miracle of cosmic proportions ...

## Stargazing for Beginners

Science  
Relationships  
Family



## DYSTOPIAN FICTION (AVAILABLE AT THE LRC)



A natural storyteller with a vision of his own, *The Dark Lady*, Akala's debut novel for teens will enthuse and entertain teenagers and young adults, showing that reading is a true super-power.

A pickpocket with an exceptional gift. A prisoner of extraordinary value. An orphan haunted by dreams of the mysterious dark lady.

Henry is an orphan, an outsider, a thief. He is also a fifteen-year-old invested with magical powers...

This brilliant, at times brutal, first novel from the amazing imagination that is Akala, will glue you to your seat as you are hurled into a time when London stank and boys like Henry were forced to find their own route through the tangled streets and out the other side.



## The Dark Lady

Fantasy  
Historical  
Mature content  
(YR9+)



# Fisher More's Recommended Reads (cont.)



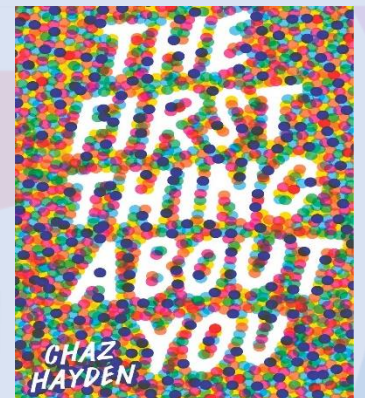
## Yoto Carnegie Shortlist 2023

The Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing is awarded by children's librarians for an outstanding book written in English for children and young people. Each year a book is selected from a shortlist.

### A high school student with spinal muscular atrophy is determined to reinvent himself.

When fifteen-year-old Harris moves with his family from California (home of beautiful-but-inaccessible beaches) to New Jersey (home of some much-hyped pizza and bagels), he's determined to be known as more than just the kid in the powered wheelchair. Armed with his favourite getting-to-know-you question ("What's your favourite colour?"), he'll weed out the incompatible people—the greens and the purples, people who are too close to his own blue to make for good friends—and surround himself with outgoing yellows, adventurous oranges, and even thrilling reds. But first things first: he needs to find a new nurse, stat, so that his mom doesn't have to keep accompanying him to school.

Enter Miranda, a young nursing student who graduated from Harris's new high school. Beautiful, confident, and the perfect blend of orange and red, Miranda sees Harris for who he really is—funny, smart, and totally worthy of the affections of Nory Fischer, the cute girl who's in most of his classes. With Miranda at his side, Harris soon befriends geeky Zander (yellow) and even makes headway with Nory (who stubbornly refuses to reveal her favourite colour). But Miranda is fighting her own demons, and Harris starts to wonder if she truly has his best interests at heart.

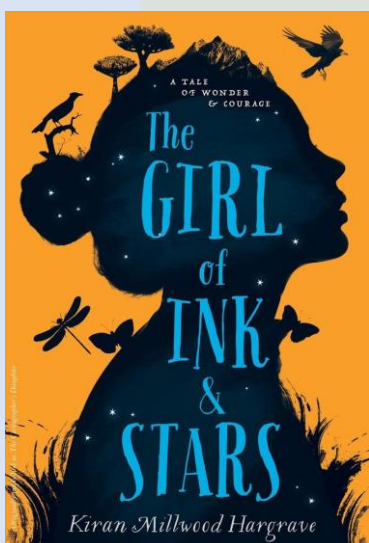


#### The First Thing About You

Disability

Friendship

Mature content (Y9+)

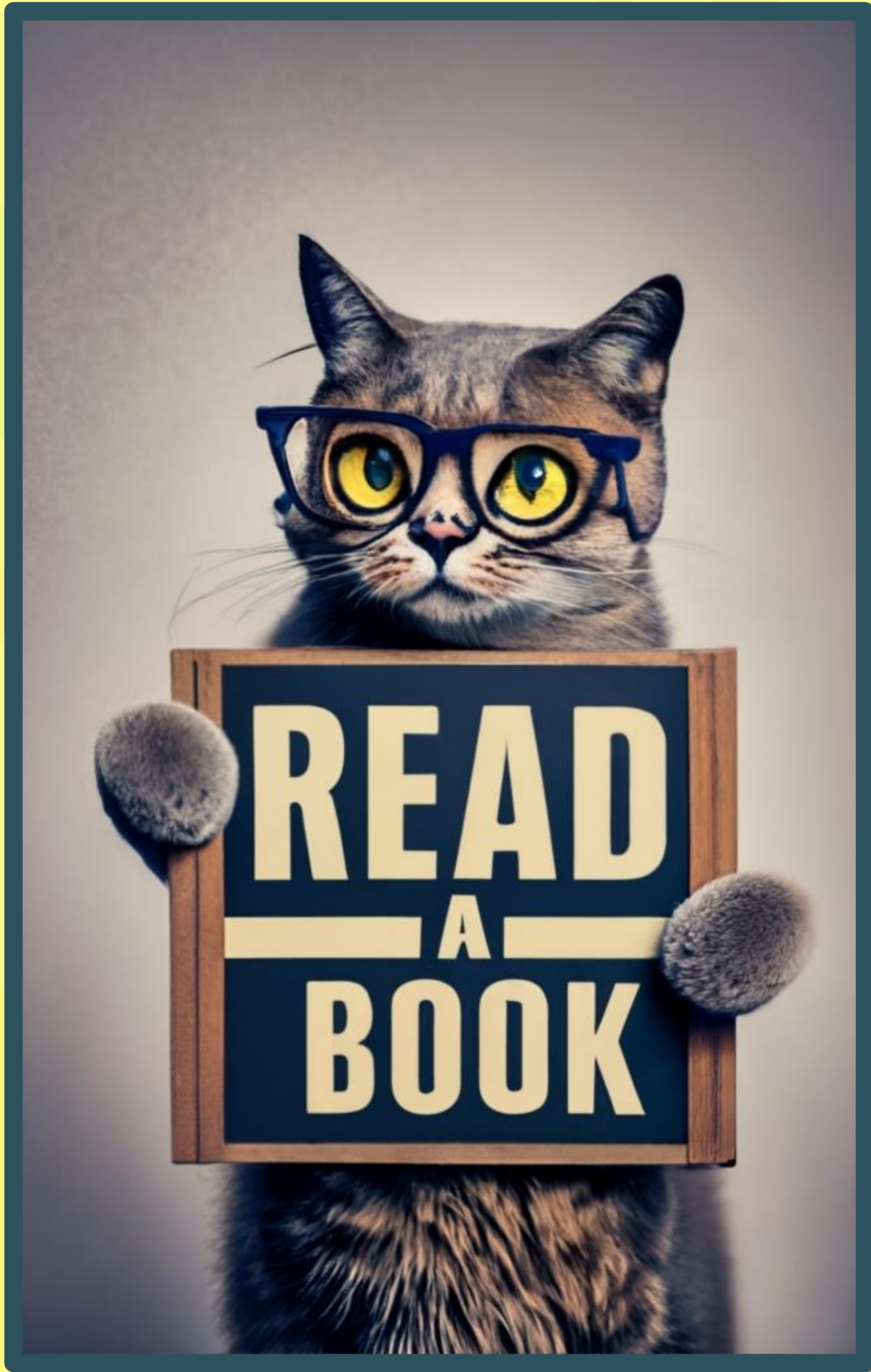


**Winner of the Waterstones Children's Book Prize 2017, and the British Book Awards' Children's Book of Year 2017.** Forbidden to leave her island, Isabella Riosse dreams of the faraway lands her father once mapped.

When her closest friend disappears into the island's Forgotten Territories, she volunteers to guide the search. As a cartographer's daughter, she's equipped with elaborate ink maps and knowledge of the stars, and is eager to navigate the island's forgotten heart.

But the world beyond the walls is a monster-filled wasteland – and beneath the dry rivers and smoking mountains, a legendary fire demon is stirring from its sleep. Soon, following her map, her heart and an ancient myth, Isabella discovers the true end of her journey: to save the island itself. Fans of Frost Hollow Hall will love this epic adventure, where courage takes many different forms.

# THANKS FOR READING!



LET ALL OUR BRIGHT COLOURS SHINE

