

Reading Newsletter

October 2025



A Note from Mrs Widdett, English Leader

Welcome back to the Leasowes Reading Newsletter. Now in our 5th year, I am more excited than ever to bring you recommendations, new releases and topical titles to inspire your reading at home and in school. A new school term means another Leasowes Reading Challenge and this time, we are Reading Around the World. Over the past few years, we have explored so many themes and introduced the Readers' Reward Programme which celebrates the children who fully engage with these initiatives to drive further exploration of the endless literature available to us. This time, all completed entries will be eligible to win a themed Reading Raffle of texts which feature in this issue of the Leasowes Reading Newsletter.

Throughout this newsletter, I wanted to bring you up to the minute recommendations for all year groups, especially ahead of the festive season where something to read is always high up on my present wishlist. As well as this, I wanted to shine a light on the titles you may have missed over the years as we are truly in the new golden age of children's literature. Finally, in this issue I will introduce you to this year's crop of **reading ambassadors** and we will share a little of what is on our exciting action plan for the new year.

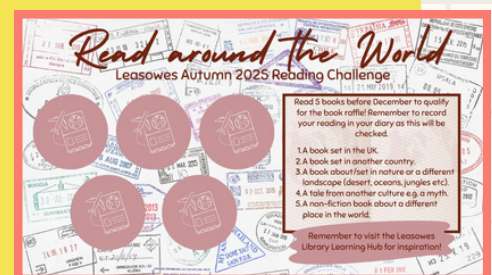


Read Around the World: Autumn Reading Challenge

"A book is a magical thing that lets you travel to far-away places without ever leaving your chair." Katrina Mayer, author.

Every child has been given a copy of this term's reading challenge in their reading diary. Before December, they are challenged to read (and record) 5 books: one set in the UK; one set in a different country; one about or set in nature such as oceans, jungles, mountains; one which is a story from another culture e.g. a myth or fable; and one non-fiction book about somewhere in the world.

Books can be read independently or with an adult but all reading must be recorded in children's reading diaries to be eligible for entry in the reading raffle.



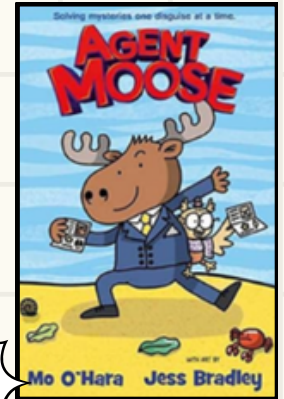
Gems you might have missed

October 2025

books to make you laugh out loud

Agent Moose by Mo O'Hara and Jess Bradley

Agent Moose is a fast-paced, funny graphic novel by Mo O'Hara and Jess Bradley, following the world's best (and most misunderstood) woodland detective, Agent Moose, and his trusty sidekick Owlfred. Together, they solve puzzling cases, track down missing animals and try to keep out of trouble with plenty of slapstick humour and clever twists along the way. The comic-style illustrations and snappy dialogue make it an ideal choice for reluctant readers as well as confident ones.



y3/4

The Book With No Pictures

B.J. Novak

The Book With No Pictures by B.J. Novak

The Book With No Pictures by B.J. Novak is a hilarious picture book with a twist: there are no pictures at all! Instead, the words make the reader say silly things, funny sounds and ridiculous sentences, turning reading into a playful, laugh-out-loud performance. Its clever format shows children how much fun words can be, even without illustrations.

ALL

Monster Hunting for Beginners by Ian Mark

Monster Hunting for Beginners by Ian Mark is a laugh-out-loud fantasy adventure about Jack, an ordinary boy who unexpectedly becomes a trainee monster hunter. Guided by a grumpy talking book, Jack faces trolls, deadly chickens, and other bizarre creatures in his quest to save the day. Packed with humour, fast-paced action, and quirky illustrations, it's perfect for fans of silly but exciting stories.



y4-6



The Caravan on the Edge of Doom by Jim Beckett

The Caravan on the Edge of Doom by Jim Beckett is a wildly funny and imaginative adventure about Harley, whose grandparents' caravan turns out to be a gateway to the Land of the Dead. When disaster strikes, Harley must set off on a quest through strange worlds full of bizarre creatures, deadly dangers, and plenty of ridiculous twists. With its mix of laugh-out-loud moments and thrilling action, it's a page-turner from start to finish.

UKS2

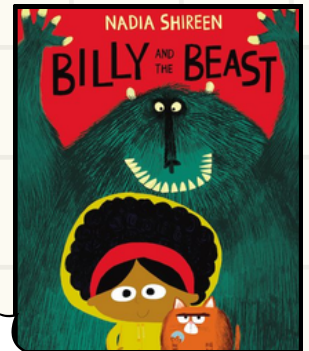
Gems you might have missed

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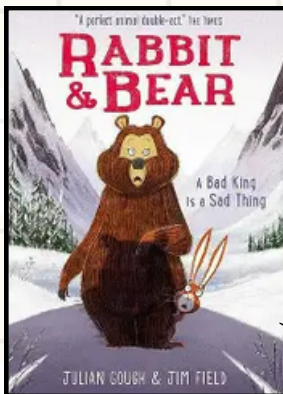
show-stopping series of books

Billy and the Beast Series by Nadia Shireen

The Billy and the Beast series by Nadia Shireen is a witty and warm set of picture books starring Billy - a quick-thinking girl - and her trusty companion, Fatcat. Together, they outsmart all sorts of mischievous and menacing creatures, from greedy beasts to crafty trolls, always using brains over brawn. There are currently three books in the series: Billy and the Beast, Billy and the Dragon, and Billy and the Giant.



EYFS



KS1

Rabbit & Bear Series by Julian Gough and Jim Field

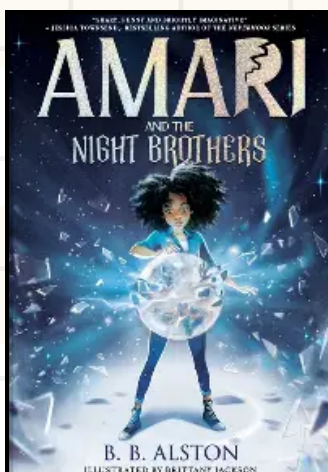
The Rabbit and Bear series by Julian Gough and Jim Field is a charming blend of humour, friendship, and life lessons, told through short, illustrated chapter books. Set in a woodland full of quirky characters, each story follows Rabbit (grumpy, impatient) and Bear (kind, optimistic) as they navigate funny misunderstandings, problem-solving, and the occasional snowball fight. There are currently six books in the series, starting with Rabbit's Bad Habits and ending (for now) with Together Again.

Kitty Series by Paula Harrison

A warm, adventurous series about a young girl with cat-like superpowers: keen eyesight, incredible agility and a knack for moving silently across rooftops. At night, Kitty dons her costume and, with the help of her feline friends, sets out to help those in need and solve small neighbourhood mysteries. Illustrated in striking black, white and orange, the books are accessible for developing readers but still feel exciting and empowering. There are currently six books in the series.



LKS2



Amari and the Night Brothers Series by B.B. Alston

Amari and the Night Brothers series by B.B. Alston is an exciting fantasy adventure following Amari Peters, a brave and determined girl who discovers a secret supernatural world full of magic, mysterious creatures, and dangerous challenges. When her brother disappears, Amari gets recruited into a magical Bureau where she must prove herself, face her fears, and uncover hidden powers. There are currently 3 books in the series with more to be released in the future.

UKS2

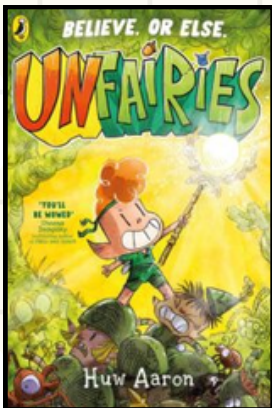
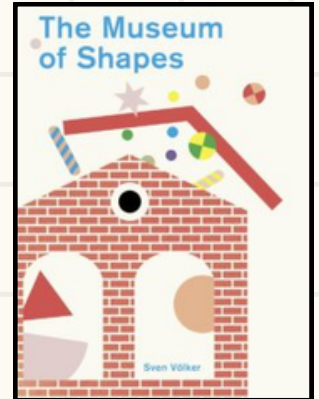
Brand new recommendations

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books released in mid-2025

Museum of Shapes by Sven Volker

The Museum of Shapes by Sven Völker is a quirky and visually captivating picture book where a young boy discovers a mysterious museum filled with strange and magical shapes. As he explores, the shapes come alive, sparking imagination and wonder through clever, bold illustrations with minimal text. It's a fantastic story that invites children to see the world differently and celebrates creativity through simple, abstract forms.

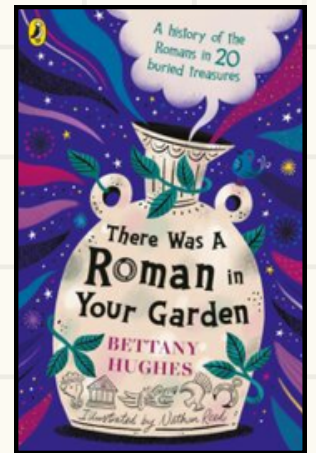


Unfairies (Graphic Novel Series) by Huw Aaron

A hilarious new full-colour graphic novel series from breakout talent Huw Aaron! Perfect for fans of Bunny Vs Monkey, Dogman and Evil Emperor Penguin. Prepare to enter the world of the Unfairies! Some stories will tell you fairies are sweet, kind, magical creatures. Well, those stories are WRONG. It's time everyone knew the TRUTH! Fairies are sneaky, cunning and about as magical as slugs. Join our impulsive, hilarious and somewhat surprising hero Pip on a breakneck adventure among the warring unfairy tribes of The Garden.

There Was a Roman in Your Garden by Bettany Hughes

You've stumbled across an ancient treasure chest in your garden that was buried THOUSANDS of years ago by a child living in ancient Rome. And the chest is packed with 20 strange and curious items that tell us so much about their life, such as armour made of REAL crocodile skin, twinkling TREASURE said to protect its wearer from evil and a fun game made of a PIG'S KNUCKLE! Unpack the treasure chest and discover the objects that a child just like YOU was using thousands of years ago.



Running My Own Race by Abena Eyeson

Kofi's mum wants him to be 'somebody' and believes, because he's Black, he needs the best education to succeed. She pushes him to take exams for a scholarship to a prestigious private school. Kofi wins, and while his mum and community are proud, he feels pressured and unsure if he's lucky—this isn't what he wanted. The one bright spot is the athletics club, where a coach sees his talent and he could compete in the London Schools' Championships. But his mum disapproves, wanting him to focus on studies, and a bully aims to ruin his chances. With his best friend urging him to stand up, Kofi faces tough choices.

Reading Challenge Recommendations

Read Around the World 2025

Books Set in the UK



EYFS
The Girl and the Mermaid by Hollie Hughes



KS1
Meet the Wildlings by Gwen Millward



LKS2
Hidden Treasure by Jessie Burton

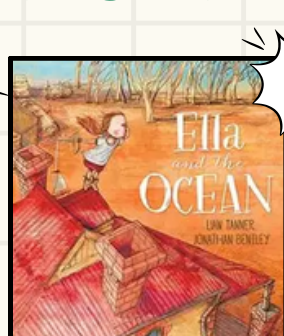


UKS2
Deep Dark by Zohra Nabi

Books Set in Different Countries



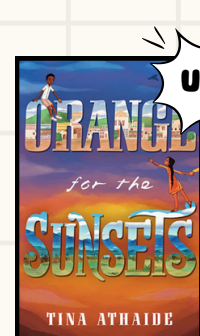
EYFS
Little Kunoichi by Sanae Ishida
Japan



KS1
Ella and the Ocean by Liam Tanner
Australia



LKS2
The Girl Who Stole an Elephant by Nina Farook
Sri Lanka



UKS2
Orange for the Sunsets by Tina Athaide
Uganda

Books Set in the Natural World



EYFS
Tropical Terry by Jarvis
Coral reef



KS1
Ratty's Big Adventure by Lara Hawthorne
Volcanic crater



LKS2
The Last Mapmaker by Christina Soontornvat
Tropical archipelago

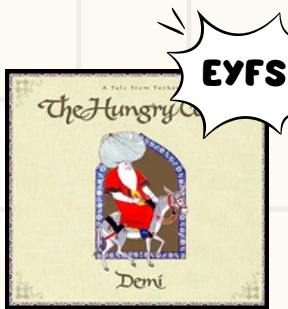


UKS2
When Stars are Scattered by Victoria Jamieson
Desert refugee camp

Reading Challenge Recommendations

Read Around the World 2025

Myths, Fables and Traditional Tales



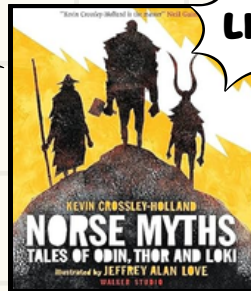
EYFS

The Hungry Coat
retold by Demi
Turkish Folk Tale



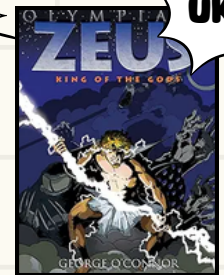
KS1

Jabuti the Tortoise by
Gerald McDermott
A Folk Tale from the Amazon



LKS2

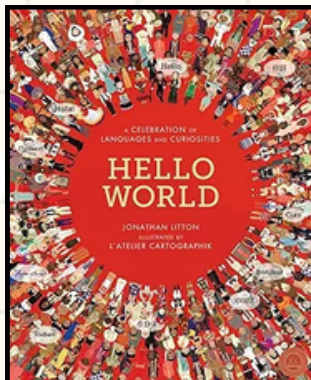
Norse Myths: Tales of Odin, Thor and Loki
by Kevin Crossley-Holland
Scandinavian Myths



UKS2

Zeus: King of the Gods
by George O'Connor
Greek Myths

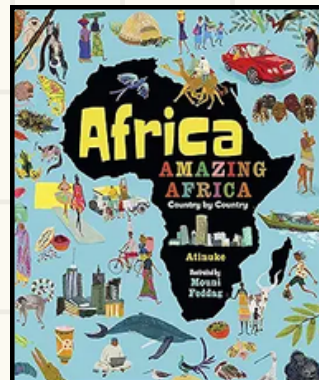
Non-Fiction Books



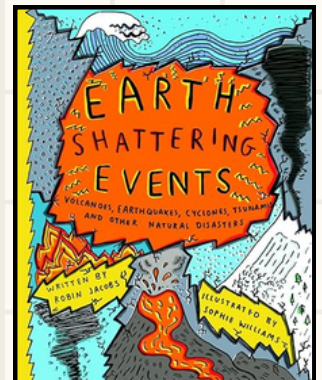
Hello World: A Celebration of Language and Curiosities
by Jonathon Litton



A Walk in Paris by
Salvatore Rubbino



Africa, Amazing Africa
by Atinuke



Earth Shattering Events
by Robin Jacobs

Read around the World
Leasowes Autumn 2025 Reading Challenge

Read 5 books before December to qualify for the book raffle! Remember to record your reading in your diary as this will be checked.

1. A book set in the UK.
2. A book set in another country.
3. A book about/set in nature or a different landscape (desert, oceans, jungles etc).
4. A tale from another culture e.g. a myth.
5. A non-fiction book about a different place in the world.

Remember to visit the Leasowes Library Learning Hub for inspiration!

Deep Dark by Zohra Nabi
Orange for the Sunsets by Tina Athaide
When Stars are Scattered by Victoria Jamieson
Zeus: King of the Gods by George O'Connor
Africa, Amazing Africa by Atinuke

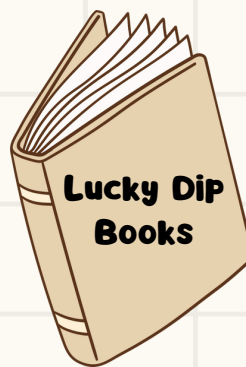
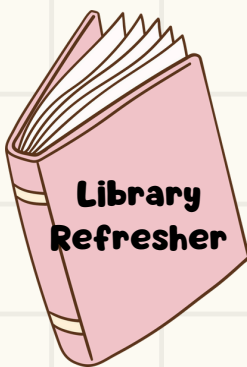
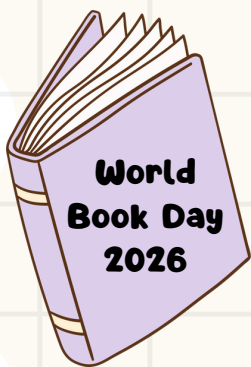
COMPLETED

Meet the Reading Ambassadors



Reading Ambassadors 2025-26

Every year, Mrs Widdett selects reading ambassadors from Years 5 and 6 to lead on Reading for Pleasure at Leasowes. Children must fill out a rigorous application to be considered for the role as only the most impassioned, excited reading role models will do! These are the children whose applications impressed the most this year. We can't wait to see their impact as the action plan for this year is vast and varied!



UKS2 Reading Ambassadors 2025-26