



BARR BEACON SCHOOL PRESENTS...



THE READING IS POWER MANIFESTO



GROWTH

When we find good
books, we find
ourselves

CHOICE

Curiosity has no
age limit and
neither do
books

POWER

We read today,
for a powerful
tomorrow

KNOWLEDGE

Books give us
the knowledge to
own our futures

So to help you on your way...click each front cover to find a link to a sample of the text



https://www.google.co.uk/books/edition/Everything_All_at_Once/8QdHDwAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&printsec=frontcover#spf=1610986215833

https://www.google.co.uk/books/edition/The_Black_Flamingo/50trDwAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=black+flamingo&printsec=frontcover#spf=1610986821438

Further suggested titles can be found on the World Book Day page found [here](https://www.worldbookdaysocial.com/power-reads/)

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Of course every great reader needs a helping hand along the way so try using our **READING FINGERS** when you next pick up a book!

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- 1. Prediction:** Use the text clues and illustrations to predict what is going to happen next in the text.
 - 2. Read with confidence and clarity:** Ensure that as you read you are acknowledging the punctuation and paragraph breaks so that the meaning and structure is clear.
 - 3. Identify:** any new or effective vocabulary and clear up any parts of the text you found confusing.
 - 4. Ask questions** to help you understand and discuss what you are reading.
 - 5. Summarise** the main things that happened in your reading/text.



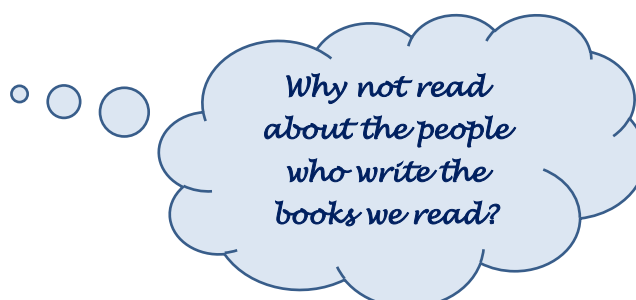
When we read, it is helpful to follow the five steps laid out above. Before reading, we make **predictions** about what we think we will see in the text, when we read (whether aloud or in our heads) we need to do so **clearly and confidently**. We need to tackle any vocabulary we

don't know head on, without being afraid that not knowing words is a problem! We need to **identify words** we are unsure about and unpick what we think they mean.

When reading, confident readers are **asking themselves questions**: why did he say that? Where has she gone? When did they do that? How does he feel? This is what ensures our understanding. Asking questions is powerful!

When we have read a piece of text we need to ensure we understood it. We need to ask ourselves what we have read and **summarise it**.

Encouraging our children to think this way will empower them as readers!



Tom Mitchell on why the 'f' word is so important in reading

You don't need *me* to tell you about the importance of reading. You've heard it all before. You get the message from all sides – teachers, parents, grandparents, those YouTube videos recommended by adults that look like they might be fun but actually turn out to be manic-eyed ex-librarians desperate for you to pick up a book.

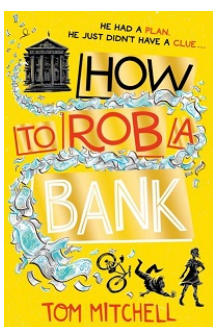
So, instead, let me tell you about how, last night, I rode a camel across the American West. I know, right?



Well, I didn't *actually* ride a camel. And, to be honest, that's a good thing. It sounded uncomfortable. And hot. I prefer comfort and a reasonable temperature. And I once rode an elephant and couldn't walk properly for two weeks.

But, last night, the novel I was reading was so convincing, so immersive, that, for a second, I forgot my humdrum existence in the outer suburbs of London and could almost smell the camel poo.

Because the teachers and parents (me) who bang on about the importance of reading, how it teaches empathy, how it literally improves your brain, risk ignoring, I think, the most important reason to do it: **It's fun!**



When I was a kid, such a long time ago that Sheffield Wednesday were in the Premier League, I loved reading a book called *The Box of Delights*. I'd do it every Christmas. Written by John Masefield, noted poet, the novel is full of fun stuff, for example: a box that can shrink you or make you fast, cars that turn into planes, time travel to Ancient Greece, rats that talk, moody demons, a young girl who likes firing pistols. Every subsequent book I read, I think, is an attempt to recapture how I felt back then.

And fun has been the starting point for both of my novels so far. I didn't start by considering an important social issue I wanted readers to learn about. I wanted to write something entertaining.

Not that long ago, I went on a train journey from Los Angeles to Chicago. And it was proper bonkers. A passenger was thrown off, in the middle of nowhere, for refusing to pay for breakfast. In Albuquerque, during a rest stop, a strange man chased a passenger with a leaf blower.

Inspiration visited: I would write a road trip. And a fun one too!

In *THAT TIME I GOT KIDNAPPED*, a young boy wins a competition to appear in a superhero movie. However, in Chicago, he misses his connecting flight. And, because teenagers are terrible decision makers, he decides to catch a bus instead. It's only 2000 miles. On the way, he meets Jennifer, who's carrying a mysterious package and is chased by a man with a moustache, known only as 'the Cowboy'.

And, with the help of my amazing editor, every decision I made in writing this story was governed by that all important question: 'will it be fun to read?'

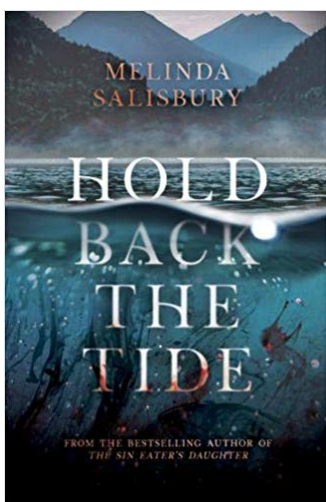
Hopefully, you'll think it is.

Because that's both why I write and why I read too.

The 'f' word: Fun.



Melinda Salisbury recommends reading around the climate disaster



Melinda is the bestselling author of multiple young adult novels including the Sin Eater's Daughter series. Her new book, *Hold Back The Tide* published by Scholastic is available in March:

Though Climate Action youth-organised protests have been happening since 2006, it was 2018 when teenagers and children began to make regular headlines in their bid to convince governments that the climate disaster has to be tackled before it's too late. What started when a single student, Greta Thunberg, decided instead of going to school she would stage a protest outside the Swedish parliament quickly gained momentum, becoming a global movement led by teenagers: Fridays For Future. In less than two years, that youth-led movement has seen more than four million protesters – mostly young people and children – joining together in over 125 countries across the world, to beg politicians, governments, and community leaders to act.

It's this bravery, and determination to act when adults won't, that inspired me to write my latest YA book. *Hold Back The Tide* is a fantasy environmental horror, about a teenage girl who worries about the damage being done to a local loch by the rapidly-expanding paper mill in her town. The adults around her ignore her concerns, until disaster strikes, and horror is unleashed when the water level drops dangerously low. Then – just like in the world today – it's down to the girl and her friends to fight the terrors ahead.

For this World Book Day, I'd like to recommend some other books for teens that feature protagonists dealing with ecological disasters, and fighting to save themselves. Whether they inspire you to join in the protests, or reassure you that you can make a difference, I hope you enjoy them.

1. **Sarah Crossan, *Breathe*:** In a dystopian future where the air outside is unbreathable, the human race live inside the Pod, where extra oxygen is taxed, so only the super-rich Premium Class can afford the extra air for running, dancing, sport, and romance. But there is a resistance fighting for change, and when one of them, Alina, botches a mission and has to escape the Pod, she finds that life outside isn't exactly what she's been told it is.

2. **Yaba Badoe, *Wolf Light*:** Three girls across the world are connected to each other, and to the land. As their homes and heritages are plundered and poisoned, the girls must perfect the magic within them and use it to save their homes, and the world, from corruption and greed.
3. **Clare Rees, *Jelly*:** It's hard to talk about the incredible, unique and brilliant JELLY without spoiling it; but I will tell you it's set after a crisis no one can remember, and takes place on the back of a giant jellyfish; one of the few places humans can live post-crisis.
4. **Sita Brahmachari, *Where The River Runs Gold*:** After numerous natural disasters the bees are dead, so instead children are 'recruited' to hand-pollinate crops so the people can eat. Shifa is hardy and strong, but her brother Thremba won't survive the merciless farm they both work on. So Shifa hatches a plan to get them out, only to discover that the ARK government has been keeping secrets, and that maybe, just maybe, not all hope is lost.
5. **Neal and Jarrod Shusterman, *DRY*:** Set in the USA after a series of terrible droughts mean the taps run dry, neighbours turn on neighbours and the suburbs become a warzone, with everyone fighting for the last drops of water they can find. When Alyssa's parents don't return from their hunt for water, it's up to her to make sure she and her brother survive.

