

YA Fiction Secondary Teachers' Book Group

How does free English-specific CPD in a friendly environment with like-minded people sound?

We are a group of teachers and educators who meet approximately every 6 weeks to discuss novels on the longlist of the UKLA Children's/YA (Young Adult) Book Award and share ideas on supporting reading for pleasure.

Set up by Julia Sutherland and Jo Westbrook, we've been running for 8 years since acting as judges for the UKLA award - choosing Williams' *Now is the Time for Running* as the 2014 winner which many of you are now teaching!

We welcome anyone working in education who is interested in YA fiction.


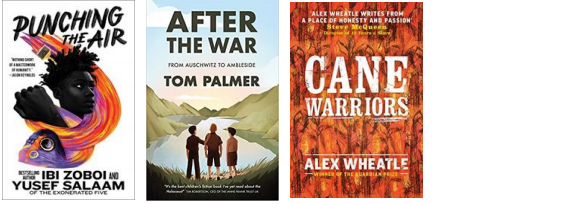

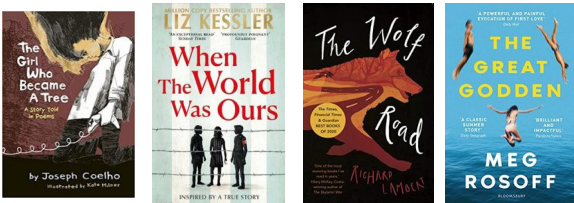


Meetings will take place on Tuesday evenings from 5-6pm mostly via Zoom

- although we are hoping for some sessions to be face-to-face by the end of the year.

Email Rosie Pannett [rp328@sussex.ac.uk] or Sue Pinnick [s.a.j.pinnick@sussex.ac.uk] to join us.

DATES

BOOKS TO BE DISCUSSED

Tues 9 Nov 2021	<p>No Country by Joe Brady (illustrated by Patricia Aggs) Boy, Everywhere by A.M. Dassu Talking to Alaska by Anna Woltz (translated by Laura Watkinson) The Rules by Tracey Darnton</p>	
Tues 7 Dec 2021 *In person?	<p>Punching the Air by Ibi Zoboi and Yusef Salaam After the War: From Auschwitz to Ambleside by Tom Palmer Cane Warriors by Alex Wheatle</p>	
Tues 18 Jan 2022	<p>The Short Knife by Elen Caldecott We Were Wolves by Jason Cockcroft Everyone Dies Famous in a Small Town by Bonnie Sue Hitchcock Tsunami Girl by Julian Sedgwick</p>	
Tues 8 March 2022	<p>The Girl Who Became a Tree by Joseph Coelho (illustrated by Kate Millner) When The World Was Ours by Liz Kessler The Wolf Road by Richard Lambert The Great Godden by Meg Rossoff</p>	
Tues 26 April 2022	<p>The Supreme Lie by Geraldine McCaughrean I Am The Minotaur by Anthony McGowan The Swallow's Flight by Hilary McKay The Silent Stars Go By by Sally Nicholls</p>	
Tues 7 June 2022 *In person?	<p>The Acrobats of Agra by Robin Scott-Elliott The Outlaws Scarlett and Browne by Jonathan Stroud Cardboard Cowboys by Brian Conaghan</p>	

Why should you join us?

It is excellent CPD! A study from The Institute of Education (2017) found that reading for pleasure in children was a key indicator of good vocabulary. Sullivan and Brown (2015) found that it is more strongly linked to children's educational success at 16 years than their parents' level of education. But many of our students struggle to choose books they will enjoy. Having this extra knowledge will help your students to make informed decisions. Some of the books we have read have become firm favourites as whole-class readers, too, like *The Bone Sparrow* by Zana Fraillon, *Now is the Time for Running* by Michael Williams, *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds, and *The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo.

What we do

We discuss three or four books at each meeting. PLEASE do not feel that you have to read all of them! Whether you read all four, just one, or half of one, you will be sharing ideas about books with other knowledgeable colleagues, as you relax and drink tea. What could be nicer?

What current group members say:

"I have loved being a part of this group - both professionally and personally. It's wonderful to make informed decisions about buying whole-class texts and be equipped to make personal recommendations to individual students, tailored to their needs. For example, last year I was able to recommenced reading Clementine Beauvais' 'Piglettes' to a girl who had experienced online bullying. The tea, cake and biscuits go down well too!"

Nikki - English teacher in West Sussex

"Attending the UKLA book group opened my eyes to the beauty of YA and gave me a platform to share stunning works with my students across all ages. My classroom shelf is now stuffed with UKLA long-listers! Being a part of UKLA group ensured that not only was I up to date with current writings, but that my opinions would be challenged and considered amongst other attendees. Highly recommend to all!"

Imogen - English teacher, East Sussex; joined the group whilst on her English PGCE/School Direct

References:

- Sullivan, A. Moulton, V., Fitzsimons, E. (2017): *What influences Vocabulary?* UCL, Centre for Longitudinal Studies: <https://cls.ucl.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/MCS6-Briefing-01-What-influences-vocabulary.pdf>
- Sullivan, A. and Brown, M. (2015): 'Reading for Pleasure and Progress in Vocabulary and Mathematics', *British Educational Research Journal*, Vol. 41 (6) pp. 971-991



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