



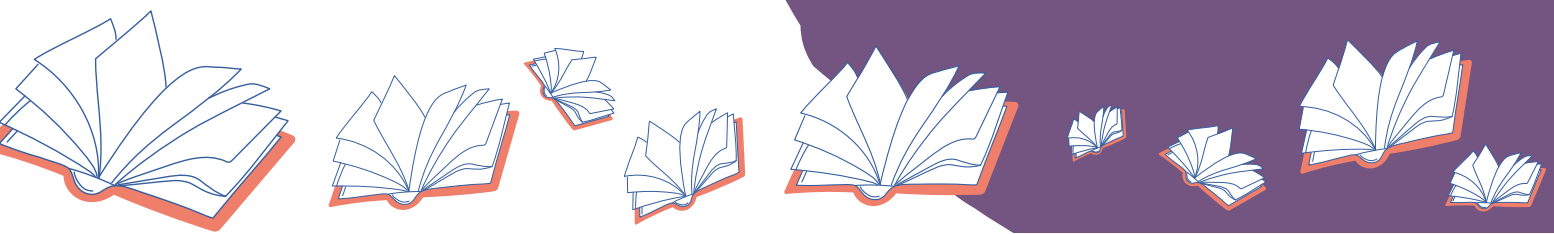
READING ROCKS

OCTOBER 2023



At Abbey Academies Trust, we understand the importance of encouraging children to read for pleasure. It might not seem like a particularly important task, but actually, research shows that reading for pleasure can be directly linked to children's success throughout their time at school and even into adulthood.

Reading for pleasure opens up new worlds for children. It gives them the opportunity to use their imagination to explore new ideas, visit new places and meet new characters. Interestingly, reading for pleasure also improves children's well-being and empathy. It helps them to understand their own identity, and gives them an insight into the world and the views of others.



TIPS

READING

- Take books with you so you always have a story to share. You can read on the train or bus, or even if you are waiting in a queue together.
- When you are outside, take time to notice what is going on around you. Make up stories about what you see with your child.
- Bedtime is the perfect time to read together. It helps create a routine and can make going to bed something your child looks forward to. It is a special time for a parent and child to share.

Check out some top reads for October.



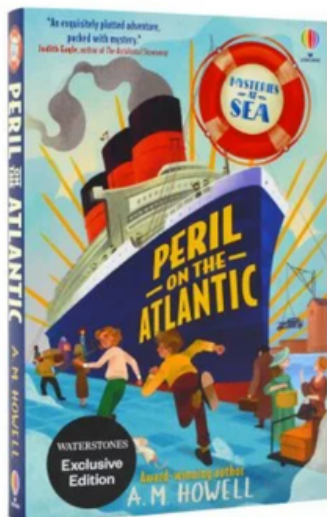
Meet Toto: she's no ordinary cat, and she can't wait to have an adventure with you! Toto the cat and her brother Silver live footloose and fancy-free in a townhouse in London. Toto is almost totally blind, and learned to trust her senses from a ninja cat-master who taught her back in Italy where they were born.

By day, Toto and Silver seem to be ordinary cats, but by night, they love to have adventures! One evening, news reaches Toto that a king cobra has escaped from London Zoo! Together with help from a very posh cat and two hungry tigers, Toto and Silver must investigate. Can they find the giant snake, before it's too late?

Joe wants to play sharks and crocodiles, but all the other children want to do is talk about why he only has one leg. Hilarious questions ensue – “was it a burglar?”, “did it fall off...in the toilet...?”. Eventually the power of play wins out, and they all end up playing sharks and pirates together. The missing leg seems irrelevant. This superb picture book can help open up an honest exploration of the experience of physical disability, and what it might feel like to be seen as different.



What Happened to YOU?



A twisty and heart-pounding mystery at sea, from award-winning A.M. Howell. July, 1936. As the Queen Mary sets sail across the Atlantic, Alice can't wait for the summer of adventure that lies ahead. She's excited to explore the huge ship, with its shops, animals and even celebrities on board.

But while Alice's sailor father focuses on winning a prestigious race, she witnesses a shocking attack. Alice and her new friend Sonny start to uncover a dark sabotage plot, and as they investigate gold bars, anonymous notes and lost silk gloves, secrets in their own lives come to the surface.

• Perfect reading for fans of Emma Carroll and Natasha Farrant, the rollicking first instalment of Howell's maritime adventure series finds young Alice enmeshed in sabotage, espionage and dangerous secrets aboard the Queen Mary.