

# B.O.T.B.

Bring. On. The. Books.

Find out what is  
happening in our School  
Library Community

April 2021

## Dear Library Friends,

Following our two week holiday this is a short newsletter (for a change). It really does feel as though 'getting back to normal' is at our fingertips; a quite an unsettling feeling for all of us. Work is underway to form our new Librarian Team and I do hope our Year 7 Carnegie Shadowers will naturally progress onto Librarian Training.

One of the best things to happen this month is the number of Teachers who are taking the initiative to widen our 'readership'. Thank you to Mrs Roberts and Miss Williams for borrowing sets of books for Tutor time and thank you to Mrs Sale and Mrs Ashton for encouraging our *really* reluctant readers. Membership of our Staff Book Club is also steadily growing.

There are lots of books I want to buy for our readers and I am working on a Library Fund Raiser Quiz; please watch out for this.

Best wishes

Mrs Brett



Library Co-Ordinator

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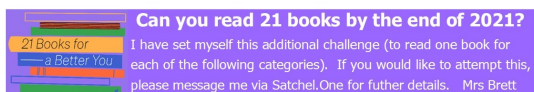
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# Mrs Brett's Monthly Library Report

## 1. STATISTICS for the month of APRIL

Books shelved	84
Overdue books	26
Books loaned out to pupils via Click-and-Drop	66
Staff new topic loans	26
Staff new personal loans	13

- Library newsletter.
- Staff Book Club promotion.
- Carnegie Shadowing.
- Click-and-Drop (Year 8 Quiz reminder, Year 7 Tutor visits).
- Year 7 Scholastic leaflet distribution and book purchases.
- Year 9 Dystopia presentation for morning Registration.
- Year 11 Access arrangements (Reading/Scribing, Group Reader).
- Manga Research.
- Library Fundraiser Quiz (photos, powerpoint & sponsorship).
- Library Team Zoom meetings.
- Librarian Team Virtual Awards.
- Ongoing Library database cleansing.



Animals .....  
 Another country ..... **No Fixed Address**  
 Awful cover illustration ..... **Being Miss Nobody**  
 Biography ..... **The Only Woman In The Room**  
 Classic ..... **The Wolves of Willoughby Chase**  
 Climate Change/Conservation .....  
 Crime & Detection ..... **The Thursday Murder Club**  
 Discrimination ..... **The Five**  
 Disney Twisted Tale .....  
 Funny book .....  
 Ghost .....  
 New book (published 2021) .....  
 Picture Book .....  
 Positive story .....  
 Recommended by a friend ..... **The Kingdom**  
 Re-read Favourite ..... **Hannah Goslar Remembers**  
 Short Story .....  
 Trilogy (Book 1) ..... **The Blackheart Legacy : Banished**  
 Trilogy (Book 2) ..... **The Blackheart Legacy : Vowed**  
 Trilogy (Book 3) ..... **The Blackheart Legacy : Judged**  
 Written by J.K. Rowling ..... **The Ickabog**

Name ..... Tutor .....  
 Date challenge completed ..... Or, Number of books read by 31/12/21 .....

*My progress in the 21 book challenge.*

## COMING SOON....

**Our School Library**

**FUND RAISER QUIZ**

**Entry fee 50p**

*Please support generously, we need to raise funds to:*

- replace books which have gone AWOL during Covid
- purchase Carnegie Medal Shortlisted books
- expand our Manga selection for KS3 pupils.

**Please support generously**

# Library Noticeboard



## Congratulations!

**Amy Brough** for smashing the **30 points Virtual Training** and for **being our top reader** (reading 259 books since the beginning of Year 7). A Certificate and an Award are on their way to you...

Members of our Library Family:

**Lucy Brough**

**Jess Ford**

**Raluca Leoveanu**

**Erin-Rose Williams**

for being selected to represent our School in the **National Maths Challenge**.



## NEW LIBRARY TEAM

Invitations have gone out to our existing Team members. Please message Mrs Brett if you would like to join our Team ready for when our Library re-opens.



## LIBRARY ART GALLERY

Watch out for the artwork from three Year 9 pupils in our next month's edition. ALL contributions welcomed. Mrs B.



### Why are Manga books so expensive?

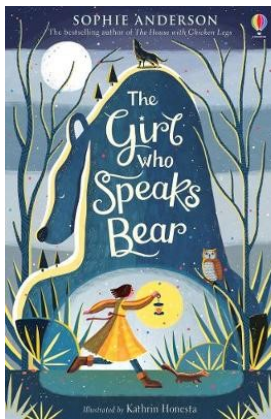
For the last twelve months I have been attempting to create a range of Manga books in response to pupil requests. Ideally, I need a team of researchers as I have insufficient knowledge of this genre to confidently purchase books (as we all know, some of the content is a little 'iffy' for a School Library). Recently I have discovered the **VIZ** website and think this may provide a start point. If you would like to help, please message me via satchel:one or send me an email. Thanks in advance. Mrs B.

# Carnegie Shadows' Leader Board

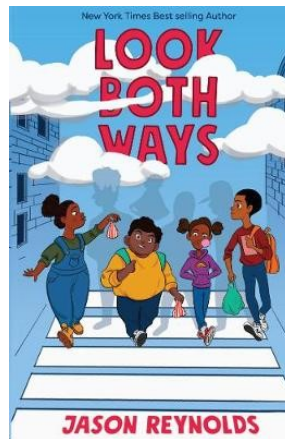


Our Carnegie Shadows have been 'busy bees' reading and rating the shortlisted books for the Carnegie Medal. Currently:

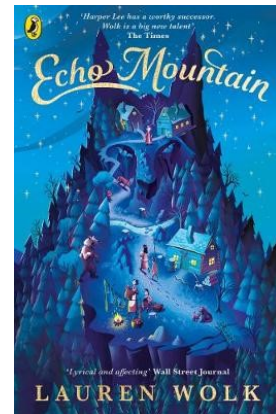
**1st**



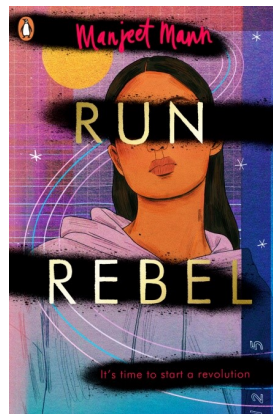
**2nd**



**3rd**



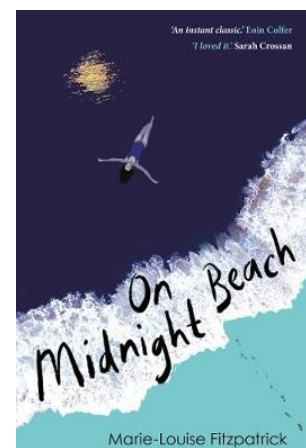
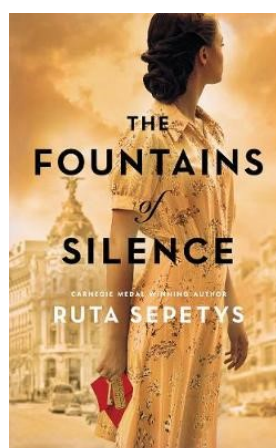
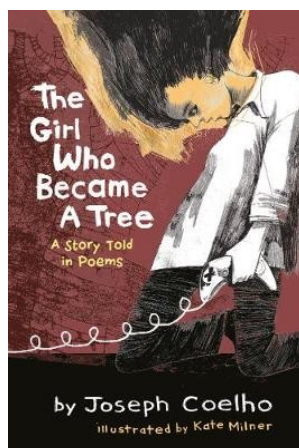
**4th**



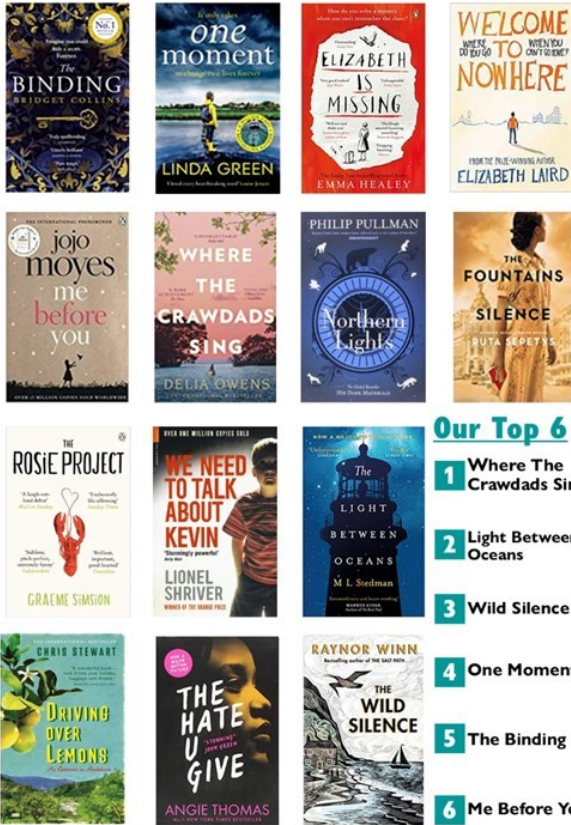
**5th**



We are looking forward to reading...



## Corbet Staff BOOKCLUB 2020 Reading



### Our Top 6

- 1 Where The Crawdads Sing
- 2 Light Between Oceans
- 3 Wild Silence
- 4 One Moment
- 5 The Binding
- 6 Me Before You

Consider joining our

## Corbet Staff BOOKCLUB

for your

wellbeing 

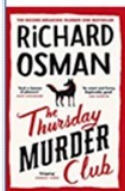
Interested? Please contact

Jackie Brett (our Library Co-ordinator)

for details.

## Corbet Staff BOOKCLUB Feedback... Corbet Staff BOOKCLUB Spring Books

Every month we tell you what we are going to read but - until now - we have not provided feedback. As you can see, we are a diverse group of readers and we do not all like the same books. Staff, feel free to join us (you do not have to read every book on the list).



*This is a well-written accessible story and a very enjoyable read.* Mrs Leach  
*When we are old enough(!) we want to live in this retirement village.* Mrs Gerrard & Mrs Brett  
*Made me laugh out loud.* Mrs Frank

*A predictable ending so I did not finish it.*  
 Mrs Gerrard

*A fascinating insight into hive life with a dark Dystopian element. Predictable ending, so I did not finish it either.* Mrs Frank  
*Well I LOVED it!* Mrs Brett



*This gave a real insight into the beginnings of Nazi Germany. I was disappointed that there was so little explanation of Hedy Lamarr's scientific discoveries.* Mrs Leach  
*I liked the book but thought Lamarr came across as quite ego-centric. It is not strictly accurate but the historian in me liked the period detail and the growing sense of horror brewing as Nazis ambitions were revealed. This was not a challenging read but enough to keep me interested.* Mrs Dobson  
*A good book for those new to biographies.* Mrs Brett

*An uplifting treatment of a sensitive topic. This story made me question what makes us happy? Often, it is the simple things.* Mrs Frank  
*I gave up reading Matt Haig's Life On An Angry Planet and so decided to listen to the audio on Radio 4. This one is a no for me, I'm not interested in exploring a life full of regrets. Move on!* Mrs Brett



*In a life filled with meaning and accomplishment, Michelle Obama has emerged as one of the most iconic and compelling women of our era. As First Lady of the United States of America - the first African-American to serve in this role - she helped create the most inclusive and welcoming White House in history. Michelle Obama also established herself as a powerful advocate for women and girls in the U.S. and around the world.*



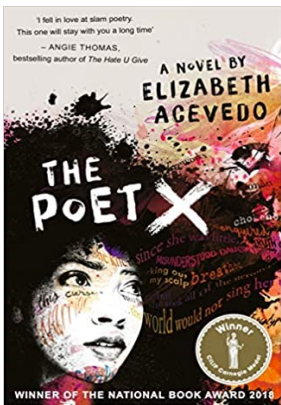
*In this memoir, Obama invites readers into her world, chronicling the experiences that have shaped her, from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago to her years as an executive balancing the demands of motherhood and work and of course, her time spent in The Whitehouse.*



*Meet Lana, Judith and Caerin. Best friends since primary school when they swore an oath on a Curly Wurly wrapper that they would always be there for each other, come what may.*  
*After the trip of a lifetime, the three girls are closer than ever but an unexpected turn of events shakes the foundation of their friendship to its core, leaving their future in doubt; there is simply too much to forgive, let alone forget.*  
*An innocent childhood promise they once made, Friends Forever is a difficult promise to keep.*

*This new novel is from Ruth Jones, co-creator of Gavin & Stacey and author of the number one bestselling debut, 'Never Greener'.*

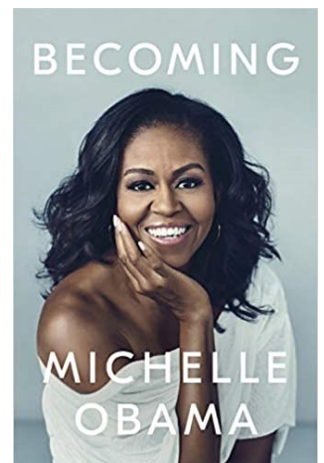
# Corbet Staff BOOKCLUB Spring Books



Xiomara has always kept her words to herself. When it comes to standing her ground in her Harlem neighbourhood, she lets her fists and her fierceness do the talking. X has secrets, her feelings for a boy in her bio class, and the notebook full of poems that she keeps under her bed. X thinks the world does not want to hear her but she refuses to stay silent. Membership of a slam poetry club pushes X and her secrets into the spotlight.

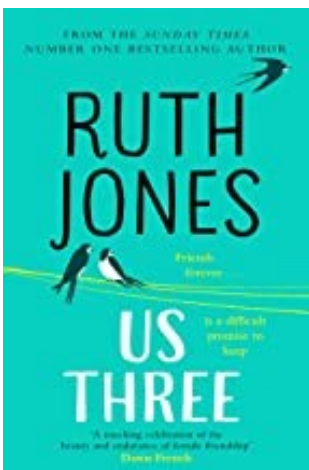
Without exception, we all loved this book. This debut novel by the renowned 'slam poet' Elizabeth Acevedo will definitely appeal to our mature KS3/4 readers. The feelings of Xiomara Batista - a young girl in Harlem who discovers slam poetry as a way to channel her feelings (perhaps surprisingly) resonated with all our Book Club members; this is down to the deceptively simple but brilliant free verse writing. **Mrs Brett**

In this memoir, Obama invites readers into her world, chronicling the experiences that have shaped her, from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago to her years as an executive balancing the demands of motherhood, work and of course, her time spent in The Whitehouse.



We all love Michelle Obama, what an inspirational lady. The audio book read by Michelle herself was a real treat. For older readers this book provides an interesting insight into American culture and the political system, which sadly is sometimes very divided by race and class. **Mrs Frank**

I found this book compelling. Michelle Obama writes with honesty and openness about their lives and relationships before and during their time at The Whitehouse. **Mrs Goodridge**



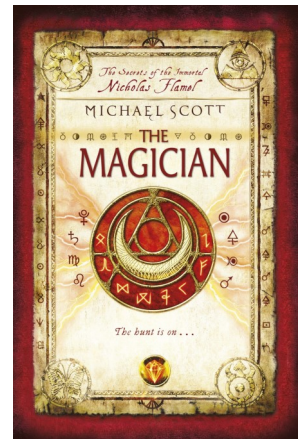
Lana, Judith and Catrin have been best friends since primary school when they swore an oath on a Curly Wurly wrapper; they would always be there for each other, come what may. After the trip of a lifetime, a turn of events shakes their friendship and their childhood promise, 'Friends Forever' is a difficult one to keep.

An easy read about the complexities of human relationships. It rolled along quickly and was funny and sad in equal measures. I didn't feel that I bonded with any of the main characters who all seemed a bit two dimensional. A good

holiday read, enjoyable but not challenging. **Mrs Dobson**

✧ The Magician by Michael Scott ✧

**Main characters:** Josh, Sophie, Nicholas Flamel, John Dee, Perenelle Flamel, Niccolo Machiavelli, Joan of Arc, Scathach, Saint Germain.



**Main story line :** This is the second in the Alchemyst series. Twins Sophie and Josh are traveling around Paris with the immortal Nicholas Flamel and running away from John Dee and his henchmen. Dee hires a group of daemon women called the Disir and their monster, Nidhogg, manages to capture one of the group. Sophie's powers have been awakened but will Josh's and whose side is he on?

**What I liked about the book:** I really liked the tension in each chapter, switching from one person's view to another.

**What could be improved:** I think that as with the first book, it could have had a little more description of the characters and their feelings.

**Rating:** I would rate this book ✧✧✧✧ because I loved all the sneaky activity but the excitement did not continue throughout the book.

*Elizabeth*

## Mrs Brett's Monthly Reading & Book Reviews



Genre : Fantasy

FINALLY! I have been longing to read the first book in 'The Dark Tower' series; thanks to Jack and Sarah for offering their copies. I have to admit I found this a real struggle for the first few chapters as the plot is a complex weave of seemingly unrelated threads. As always, King's atmospheric writing worked its magic and drew me in. I am hooked and now looking for a copy of 'The Drawing of the Three'. The complexity of the plot and a few of the 'more graphic' scenes makes me ask, should our Library stock this?



Genre : Fantasy

Honestly, if this had not been shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal and if so many of my Shadders had not asked to read it, then I would not have bothered with this book as I do not 'rate' this author. To my surprise, I actually enjoyed it, especially the Russian fairy tale element and the illustrations. This is a cleverly thought through book, ideal for Year 7s looking at Fairy Tales in English. The story has 'stayed in my head' which is always a good sign; it might even win this year's Carnegie Medal.

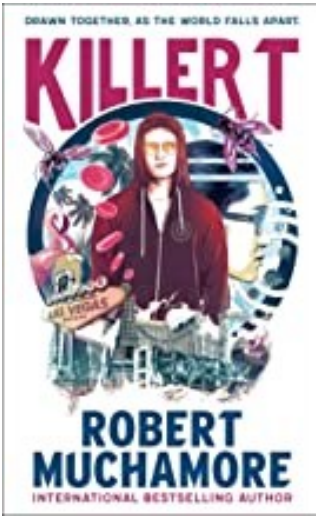


Genre : Teen

At outset, I thought this author was imitating the trail blazers, Angie Thomas and Elizabeth Acevedo. The free verse was not strong enough to hold the dialogue, develop the characters and plot line. At times these elements were obscured by the typography. Setting this early impression aside, I persevered and found myself invested in Amber's story and her attempts to break free from the constraints of her family's cultural expectations. 'Run Rebel' gives an insight into how difficult life can be in this country for families of second and third generation immigrants. All our pupils should read this one.

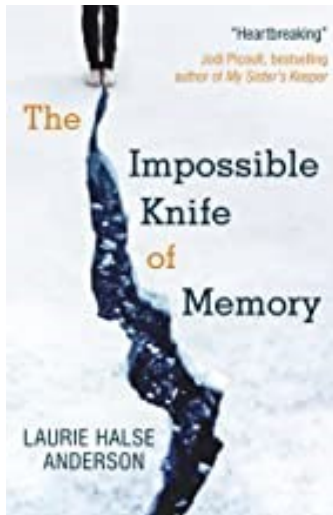






Genre : Dystopia

Killer T was published in 2018 and went almost unnoticed. Muchamore's storytelling of a World overwhelmed by a synthetic virus with a 90% mortality rate now carries extra resonance as we experience the first Pandemic in living memory. The idea of 'normal' daily life changing overnight is now fact, not fiction. Perhaps the breakdown of society prompted by the wealth generated by DIY gene editing predicted by this author is no longer that fantastical? It is a pity Muchamore has been 'typecast' by his 'Cherub' series as this is a 'must read'.

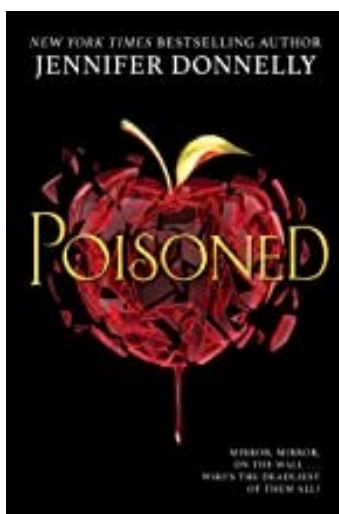


Genre : Teen

This one kept slipping to the bottom of the pile. I like the author but the synopsis (blurb) at the back of the book put me off:

*'Hayley is fighting everyone - her dad, her stepmother, the new boy Finn. Fighting to forget the past. But some memories run too deep.'*

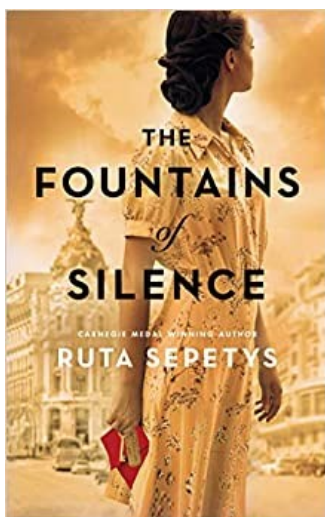
Now I have read it, there is so much more to this story. Hayley's Dad is a War Veteran who is struggling with PTSD and Hayley's entire life focus has been on maintaining the appearance of normality as her world falls apart. Not an easy one; recommended to mature Year 9+.



Genre : Fantasy  
for KS3 & KS4

Jennifer Donnelly was reworking tales from The Brothers Grimm long before Disney's 'Twisted Tales' and, in my opinion, she does it better! 'Poisoned' is a clever version of 'Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs'. Beautifully written, it still captures the (often forgotten) dark side of this fairy tale. Donnelly writes sitting in a room in her house in New York Hudson's Valley. She has a pot of tea and a bar of dark chocolate for 'company and courage'. She 'plots, plans, schemes and dreams' in longhand but does her actual writing on her computer. 'Poisoned' is highly recommended for all our Fantasy lovers.





### Historical Fiction

For me Ruta Sepetys writes some of the best historical fiction for teenagers; similar in style to Victoria Hislop (an excellent writer of this genre for adults). I did not, however, enjoy Sepetys' last book, 'Salt to the Sea' and so had some reservations about this one. It took me two attempts 'to get into it' but the effort was worth it. Sepetys skillfully sets a poor girl/rich boy love story against the backdrop of Nationalist Spain under Franco. Some excellent plot twists and powerful atmospheric writing enables the readers to feel the heat of Spain and the oppression of the powerful regime. I am not sure this is suitable for the Carnegie Medal (for KS3 readers) but as the Awards are sponsored by Amnesty International, this, again is a potential winner.



### Historical Fiction

What an awful cover but I needed something quick to read and this book was handy. Growing up in poverty, one of six siblings, Hannah Armstrong never thought she'd know anything other than her little mining town. Then she falls in love with Timothy Durkin, a wealthy Oxford student. They marry and Hannah begins a life of luxury in Oxford. In the interwar years full of class prejudice, will the marriage succeed or will it be 'once a coal miner's daughter, always a coal miner's daughter..?' A good read for members of staff.



### Genre : Fantasy

I have resisted buying this book for our Library because it is so expensive in hardback (I could buy three other books for the same price). Thank you Mrs Sale for loaning me your nephew's copy. Well, J.K. Rowling has done it again, arguably total plagiarism but Rowling can be forgiven because it is utterly brilliant. The quirky size of the hardback, the cover itself and the illustrations (drawn by School pupils) are just inspired. I will definitely be recommending this one to all our Year 7s reading Fairy Tales. Ideally, I would like a set of these books for our Library. A future modern Classic?.



**WANTED: a set of 'Icabogs' Watch out for our Library Fund Raiser...**

# CATALOGUE : Library books purchased in 2021

## **Adventure**

Voyage of the Sparrowhawk

The Girl Who Speaks Bear

## **Dystopia**

Maze Runner : 5 The Fever Code (replacement)

Rains Brothers : 2 Last Chance

## **Fantasy**

Spellslinger : 2 Shadowblack

The Blackheart Legacy (Trilogy)

The Wizards of Once (first 3 books in the series)

## **Graphic Novels**

Baby-Sitters: 2 The Truth About Stacy

Monsters & Villains of the Movies

Point Blanc (Alex Rider)

## **Historical Fiction**

2 Devil, Darling, Spy

The Fountains of Silence (Carnegie Shortlist)

## **Humour**

Code Name Bananas

Diary of a Wimpy Kid : 14 The Deep End

Shoe Wars

## **Horror**

Coraline (2nd copy)

## **Manga**

Life Changing Manga

Pokemon Adventures

The Water Dragon's Bride

Zeraora's Story

## **Teen**

Run Rebel (Carnegie Shortlist)

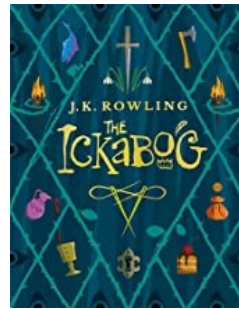
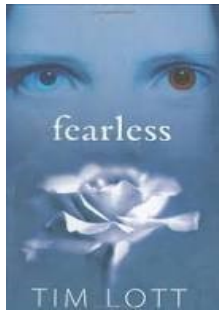
## **True Stories**

Hannah Goslar Remembers

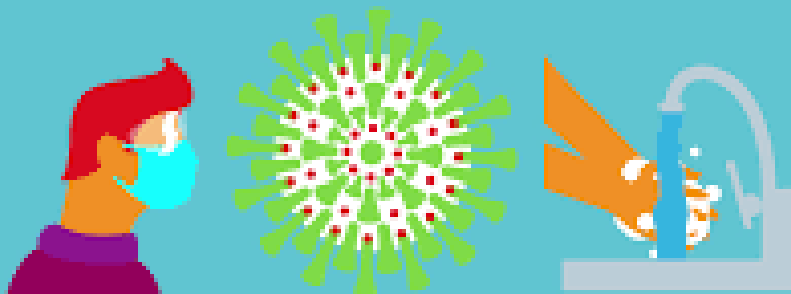
The Twins of Auschwitz

The Five : The Untold Live of the Women Killed by Jack the Ripper

# MRS BRETT'S TOP 10 FOR 2021 (so far)



1. Fearless by Tim Lott
2. The Rains by Gregg Hurwitz
3. The Ickabog by J.K. Rowling
4. Being Miss Nobody by Tamsin Winter
5. The Blackheart Legacy by Liz de Jager
6. The Stolen Ones by Vanessa Curtis
7. Killer T by Robert Muchamore
8. Orphan Monster Spy by Matt Killeen
9. Echo Mountain by Lauren Wolk
10. Star by Star by Sheena Wilkinson



**DON'T BECOME COMPLACENT!  
LET'S STOP COVID-19**