

B.O.T.B.

Bring. On. The. Books.

**Find out what is
happening in our School
Library Community
JUNE 2023**

Dear Library Friends,

June rushed by 'in the blink of an eye'. Several Year 7s have recently joined our Team and their training is well underway. Some of our Student Librarians have also been 'volunteered' to refresh our Library displays ready for September.

We are finding a number of books out of order as we have too many pupils who have forgotten all about our ancient red returns trolley. If you are browsing books which you do not want to borrow, please do not put them back on the shelves - we have trained student librarians to do this - you may get it wrong. Instead, these books must be placed on our red returns trolley.

Similarly, we have discovered a couple of 'overdue' books in our Library which were returned direct to our shelves and not to the Issues Desk. If in doubt, please ask!

HAPPY READING!

Mrs Brett 

Library Co-Ordinator

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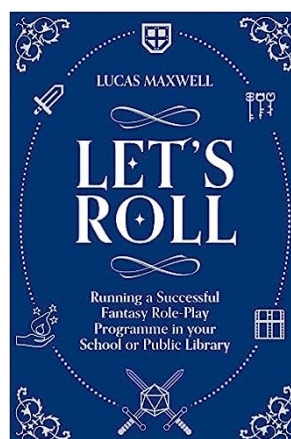
DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

To be honest, I had my doubts when Harry asked if he could start a D&D Club one lunchtime a week. I thought this would be akin to Games Workshop and would be impossible to manage in the limited time available. I am pleased to say that I have been proved wrong and this club has stayed the course. During the hottest Thursday lunchtime (when most pupils are out on the field) I received tuition and now have my own dice and character sheet. A new D&D Players Handbook is about to be shelved in our Reference Section ready for new players to peruse.

Fellow Librarian, Lucas Maxwell, has been running Dungeons & Dragons Club in his school library for the last three years and has even written a book about his experience.

I completely agree with his summary of how pupils benefit from playing D&D:

1. Improved self-confidence. Students can express themselves through their D&D character without fear of judgement from anyone.
2. Improved team work. D&D is all about co0peration, the game falls apart without this.
3. Improved listening skills. You must listen to the Dungeon Master and each other to navigate and survive!
4. Improved creativity. Players learn to improvise to propel their way forward in the game.
5. Learning the value of commitment. If students miss a session, it spoils the enjoyment for the team.



DUNGEONS & DRAGONS®



Mrs Brett's Monthly Library Report

STATISTICS for JUNE 2023

Books borrowed	315
Books shelved by the Library Team	547
Number of overdue books	97

TASKS

1. Maintaining the focus on overdue Library books.
2. Rewriting the Librarian Manual for our new trainees.
3. Senior Librarian training.
4. Arranging Library visits as part of the ongoing Library Review.
5. Scribing for GCSE examination Access Arrangements.
6. Summer reading initiative and Jammie Dodger Book Award.
7. June Newsletter and July School Newsletter article.
8. Data cleansing update. I began this during Lockdown when we had 14,500 records on the Library database. We are now down to 10,000 and counting!



Library Noticeboard

Congratulations to **Esme**, our latest trainee to be awarded a Blue Librarian Badge.

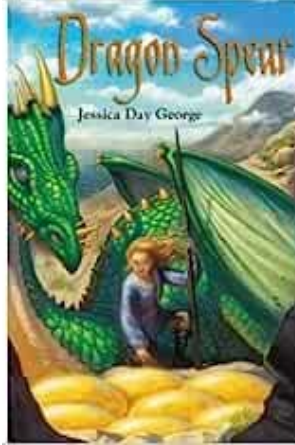
Thanks to the Issues Desk Librarians who are continuing to put books away!



Mrs Brett's Reading : JUNE

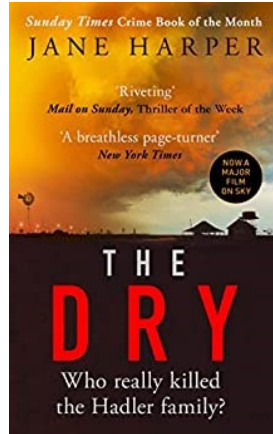


I am 'stockpiling' books for the Summer Holidays and I have spent most of my free time gardening and so my reading is down for this month.



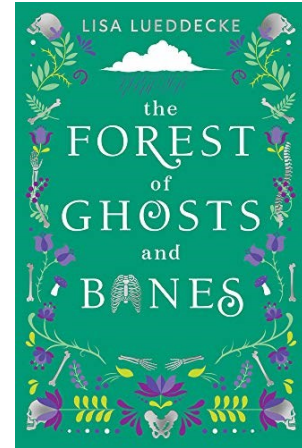
DRAGON SPEAR

This is the third book in the series recommended by Lowri and even though the plot was 'thin' I cried at the end.



THE DRY

I really enjoyed this thriller and was blindsided by the ending. Thanks Mrs Leach for donating to our Library



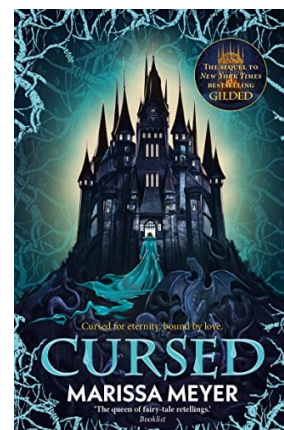
THE FOREST OF GHOSTS AND BONES

I was disappointed with this one. Surprisingly, I found it too descriptive and the characters' voices were difficult to distinguish.



FIRE WITCH

This is the second book in the series and I am hoping for a third. An easy Fantasy read.



CURSED

Without exception, our Fantasy Readers loved 'Gilded' and the second book has been eagerly awaited. I read this one over several days (even abandoning Netflix), but was it as good as Gilded? Feedback please.

YOUNG WRITERS

It is not fair to keep everyone waiting until September for the final instalment of Maria's story so I have decided to publish the ending in this month's Library newsletter.

To recap, a mystery disease is attacking the Khaleesi Forest and Leaf, our intrepid explorer, is recording her research to find a cure. A great idea, well done Maria!

The Khaleesi Forest

An Audio Research Journal

Day 11: 4/8/2023

What if it is a phrase and it goes off the map. How stupid am I to think it has to stay on the map? I've been keeping the map up to date and I can see other letters now; . It's a 'g' so I was wrong with underneath, but Copper was wrong too. Thinking about it, I could kind of be right if it turns out the word is underground. I bet it is. Copper what do you think it is? I don't know, maybe it's 'undergiggle'. Is that even a word?

Day 12: 5/8/2023

Almost at Ki's. I am really worried that the word is 'underground' because if it is then our forest will get caught up in the 'u' and Copper will go hollow. Copper is the best friend I have ever had so I really really don't want him to go hollow. I also really don't want the forest to die.

Day 13: 6/8/2023

We finally made it to Ki's, but we still haven't even spoken to her. We spent ages queueing up. There's a massive line and that's just the line for creating an appointment. I have set up camp just outside Ki's and Copper's still in the queue. I've also updated the map and the second letter has started forming and even though you can't tell what it is, yet it could still be an 'r'. I can't believe that we still haven't got an appointment. Hopefully we'll have one in the morning.

Day 14: 7/8/2023

We were twentieth in the queue when I last checked so we'll get an appointment really soon. I really really need to tell Ki what I found out especially since the next letter could still be an 'r'. Copper has finally booked us an appointment. We're so lucky. The person in front of us had just cancelled their appointment so we get to go in tomorrow, otherwise we would have had to wait 2 weeks! I can't wait to speak to Ki. I have so much I need to tell her. I'm so glad we got lucky with the person in front who cancelled their appointment. The letter is an 'r'. Luckily, it's not quite finished and there's an 'o' before the 'u' if the word is underground.

Day 15: 8/8/2023

Finally, the day has come for our appointment with Ki. Some people who had just come out of the building advised us to go in an hour before our appointment started. I didn't understand why until we actually went into the building. As soon as we walked in, a fire spirit came to greet us. When I saw it, I almost screamed. It looked like something out of a horror movie. Most of it looked okay like a flame with no fuel but the eyes; the eyes scared the life out of me. They were just hanging there in the flame, no eyelids, no nothing. Just two eyeballs floating in mid-air. The spirit showed us to a lift. I was so glad to be rid of him. AND THEN HE JUMPED INTO THE LIFT WITH US!!!

Honestly, I spent the whole ride in the corner, as far away from Mr un-get-rid-able as possible. When the lift finally stopped the doors were jammed so the fire spirit (flame) spent what felt like an hour trying to get the doors open. When we eventually got out of the escalator, we found . . . a laser maze. Luckily, we didn't have to go through it because Flame, who didn't even have hands, used a HAND SCANNER! to disable the lasers. It took another ten minutes for all the lasers to turn off but once we got through, we finally dropped

Mr Creepy so he could turn off the lasers, only to find his brother Burn coming over to take us to the waiting room and almost as soon as we sat down a speaker boomed at us to inform us that it was time for our meeting. I got up and pushed the doors open.

Day 16: 9/8/2023

The next letter could still be an 'o' luckily it could still be an 'a' too. Ki hasn't visited me, so this probably means that she hasn't found anything new.

Copper, I haven't seen you here before and Leaf! Have you found something? I quickly whipped out my map and showed her the letters and she said that she hadn't thought of letters. Especially human ones. She also said that she was the only spirit who could read or write human. This means that the culprit was human or a very, very smart animal or, as I pointed out, it could be a robot gone wrong. I also talked about my underground theory. This reminds me. It is possible the word could still be 'undergraduate'. I doubt this but, it could be. I bet that when I listen back to this recording I will be so annoyed at myself for not getting the right word. Oh well.

About two more days until I get back to the forest. It will be so nice to sleep in the cave again. I've just realised anyone listening would probably be thinking "Hang on, how can Copper speak human if Ki said she was the only one who can speak it?". Well dear listener, the answer to that is I taught him and he can't write anyway, so it can't be him.

Day 17: 10/8/2023

I am almost back. I have had the most amazing idea. If the word is 'underground', then maybe the Fatima spirits are being buried underground and replaced by hollow replicas. This would mean there are no Fatima spirits to guard the tree, the evil spirits attack and the tree dies. Copper thinks my idea is reasonable, but the question is 'why you would lay out clues like that?'. People do it in movies but not in real life. Unless we're dealing with a psychopath. I hope not.

Day 18: 11/8/2023

The letter is an 'o'!!! I finally got back to the forest and updated my map and there is only one more forest to strike before the 'o' is finished. The infection strikes two to three forests a night meaning that our forest will be destroyed in three to four days, but in four day's time. I won't be here!

Day 19: 12/8/2023

Only two more days after tonight. I'm really anxious. I bet that our forest will be struck on the 15th. Copper and I are going to investigate the closest fallen forest. It's only about 15 minutes away. When we get there, we see no signs of the Fatima spirits ever being buried. Copper then kicks the tree. It falls over revealing that it was only bark! Suddenly it hits me. There was a drill underground hollowing out the tree. No human could have drilled so precisely though, so who could it be?

Day 20: 13/8/2023

I have to leave tomorrow. I am going to miss Copper and the others. They were such good friends. I was telling Spike and the twins about the adventures Copper and I have had and I was just telling them about the meeting with Ki when it hit me. Ki had said she was the only spirit who could write human in the meeting and the job that had been done carving the tree out was far, far, far too good for a human to have done it. So, it must be Ki, but why? I still haven't figured out what makes Ki want to destroy forests, but we will capture her. We all spent ages putting a square of crinkle-bi-metal underneath the tree because tomorrow, or the day after, Ki will try to attack this forest and it's the best we can do to protect it.

Day 21: 14/8/2023

As soon as I got up this morning, I began packing my bag. I spent all day watching the tree until my Mum came to get me. When I got home, I ate tea and went straight to bed. I didn't even go into the garden, and I always go outside before bed. I spent all night worrying about the forest and it took me ages to get to sleep.

Day 22: 15/8/2023

This morning I asked my Mum if I could go out to the forest, and she said that I had to wait until Dad got out of bed. I spent the whole morning worrying about Copper until Dad finally woke up. I was out in an instant straight into the forest, and I got there just in time too.

I heard the drill bang into the metal we had put there two days ago. I quickly began to dig and underneath the metal there was a small purple drill. I yanked the door open and just as I'd guessed, out came Ki. I asked her why she was destroying the forests, but she didn't answer because something much stranger happened. She just crumbled away. Something told me she was gone, and she wasn't coming back. All day I wondered why: Why would Ki be destroying forests and why did she crumble away?

Day 23: 16/8/2023

I've decided to begin investigating the Ki mystery, so another day in the forest for me. Copper is helping me and so is Royal, but Princess isn't coming. I was so surprised. This will be the first time they aren't together since they were born, according to Copper. We started investigating the drill and we all came up with theories. Royal thinks that Ki had gone mad and her immortality was taken off her for destroying so many forests. Copper agrees with Royal but I'm not so sure, I feel like there is something bigger pushing her to do it.

Later that day when I'm saying goodbye, we hear the metal rattle again. It reminds me that I need to take the metal back home but, just then, the tip of a drill breaks through the metal, slowly making the hole bigger and bigger. Instantly we all begin to dig the drill up. This one is pure black and feels menacing as if someone truly evil with a heart as black as the drill lurks inside. Sure enough, when we finally dig this drill out, a grim spirit step out. It's a horrible wolf-like creature with crow feathers instead of fur. It cocks its head at us and although it has a muzzle, it lets out a hideous shriek.

Why are you destroying our forest? I shouted, unable to believe this was happening again. "Because that useless Ki couldn't do it for me" replied the wolf in a chillingly calm growl. There were so many questions I wanted to ask but I stuck with one. Why would Ki do that to us? Why would she just attack us like that? "There's a lot someone would do for immortality", he answered. All of us gasped and the wolf let out a second shriek.

Just then Copper floated out the machine. "Thanks for the distraction", he said, "everything is broken".

The wolf's eyes widened. "I'll never be able to get home." Then he howled a long sad cry, begging to be able to go home. "Where do you live?" I asked. "In Blacue" he replied mournfully. "I might be able to take you there", I smiled.; "So long as you never come back". "Okay" agreed the wolf and we took him home.

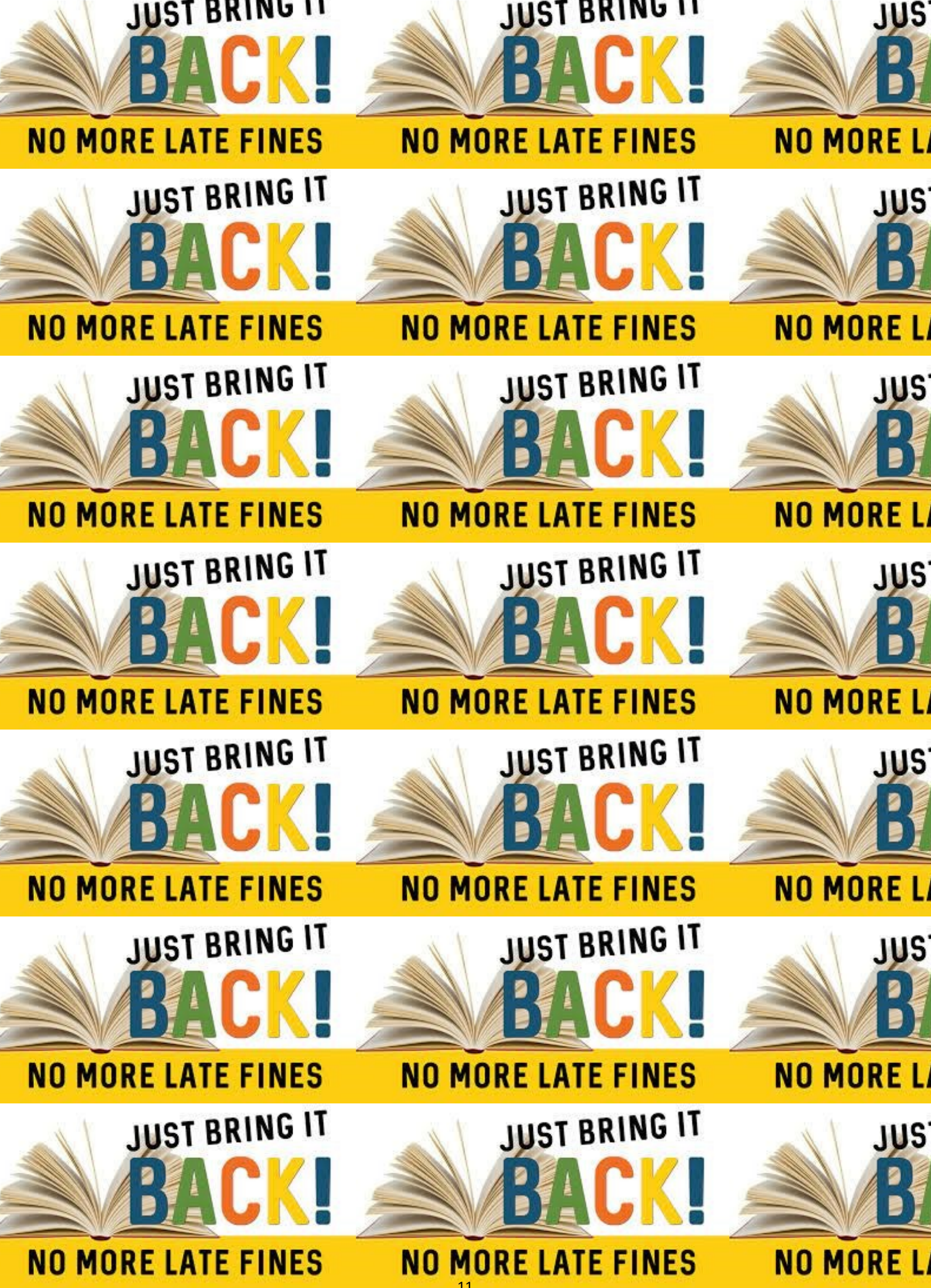
So far, the wolf has kept his promise and I'm back at home. I'm glad we didn't have to lock the wolf up. I just wish I could have told you about how I got the wolf home but... I promised not to...

The End



Maria, I hope you will be writing the sequel over the Summer Holidays; I want to know how the wolf got home! Mrs B x

We have lots of creative writers in our School; if you would like your song lyrics, poems, free verse or short stories published, please message me:
jackie.brett@corbetschool.net



WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE



MISSING LIBRARY BOOKS

BIG REWARDS!*

WE HAVE NEARLY 100 OVERDUE LIBRARY BOOKS

**Please check the return date on the
date plate inside the front of your Library Book.**

