

# CHENEY LIBRARY UPDATE

April 2021



## WELCOME BACK!

Welcome to the first library newsletter, which I hope gives a small insight into the busy life of Cheney Library.

It has been fantastic to welcome students back to the library over the past few weeks and it has been very encouraging to see the large number of students who have borrowed new books (and returned their old ones!). I have been rushed off my feet with eager students wanting book recommendations.

Whilst COVID restrictions mean that open access to the library isn't possible every day, I have also been visiting as many lessons as I can to talk to students about the importance and power of reading and to introduce the new books that are available to borrow from school.

See the last pages for some of the new titles that have just arrived. Wishing everyone a restful spring break.

Happy reading!

Mrs Jill Fenton,  
Cheney Librarian

## ACCELERATED READER

All students in year 7 take part in Accelerated Reader, a scheme that is designed to track students' reading and to provide a focus on reading at the beginning of a students' secondary school career. Students are encouraged to read widely and to take a short quiz after finishing each book.

Everyone is rewarded for fantastic reading and coveted golden tickets plus other goodies are awarded to every student who joins the Millionaires' Club. Once students join the Club, they are also welcome to try their hand at Mrs Fenton's [Reading Bingo Challenge!](#)

### Some AR Stats (YTD):

- 3214 books read and quizzed
- Average 12 books per student
- 19,763,142 words read
- 107 AR Millionaires

Many congratulations to all year 7 students who have worked so hard on their reading this year so far. I am looking forward to welcoming lots more students to the Millionaires' Club after the Easter break.

### Some useful AR success tips:

- Try to take your quiz as soon as you finish your book
- Read within your reading range
- Read for 20 minutes every night
- Ask for help if you're not sure what to read – you'll do much better on the quiz if you enjoy your book!

## BOOK AWARDS

Book awards and their associated shortlists are a great way to find new books and authors. Here are some of the upcoming awards for YA and children's writing:

[Carnegie Award](#) (years 7 – 10)

[YA Book Award](#) (year 9 and above)

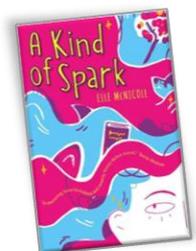
[Lollies](#) (Laugh Out Loud Award (years 7 and 8)

[School Library Association](#)

[Information Book Award](#) (KS3)

[Waterstones Children's Book Award](#) (KS3/4)

[Blue Peter Book Award](#) (Years 7 and 8)



### A Kind of Spark by Elle McNicol

This debut novel won the overall Blackwell's best book of the year 2020 and the Blue Peter Award 2021.

Offering an utterly convincing and honest narrative voice, *A Kind of Spark* challenges the stereotypes that can be associated with autism, and teaches us that there are 'many different ways to be autistic.'

If you liked *The Boy at the Back of the Class* or *Can You See Me*, try this.

## CHENEY LIBRARY



## CHENEY CHOICE

In their reading lessons, Years 8 and 9 students have been introduced to six specially chosen books that make up the Cheney Choice selection. Multiple copies of each title are available to borrow from the library and they have flown off the shelves (so much so that more copies have been ordered!)

The aim of the scheme is to encourage students to try a new author or genre or to pique a student's interest in reading more generally.

One of the books, **Long Way Down**, is a graphic novel; graphic novels are a great start for students who are not keen readers.

Another of the books, **Run Rebel**, is written in verse and is also a great read for students wishing to improve their reading habit.

Students are encouraged to read the books and to write a review via the library software. Each student who writes a review on a CC book receives 50 house points. A massive well done to two students (Dora and Becky in Year 8) who have already read all six books and have written some brilliant reviews.

Please speak to Mrs Fenton or your English teacher if you would like to know more about the Cheney Choice books.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR NEW LIBRARY STOCK

Click on the link below to submit your suggestion.



Suggestions for new Manga and Anime titles are very welcome.

## WRITE A REVIEW ON YOUR BOOK TO WIN 20 (OR MORE) HOUSE POINTS!

Go to the Cheney Library app on RM Unify and log in. Find your book and tell the world what you think!

It is a great way to practice your writing skills and to build a reading community across Cheney.



## YEAR 10 EASTER READING CHALLENGE

Year 10 students have been challenged to read a book and write a review on it (via the library software) over the Easter holidays. Everyone who does this will win 100 house points and a golden ticket.

So, get reading! If you're not sure where to start, speak to Mrs Fenton or take a look at the newly launched [KS4 reading list](#).

Remember A regular reading habit is recommended to foster good mental health – and exam results!

## BOOKS, WONDERFUL BOOKS!



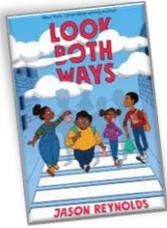
Back in the autumn, Siri in year 7 won a writing competition through Blackwell's and publisher Hachette. Very excitingly, part of the prize was for £500 of free books for the library.

The books arrived just before lockdown but we waited until school reconvened in March to open the boxes. Siri invited a couple of friends and we spent a very pleasant 30 minutes exploring the new titles.

Congratulations and big thanks to Siri. The books will be catalogued and available to borrow over the next few weeks.

# NEW AND SUGGESTED READS

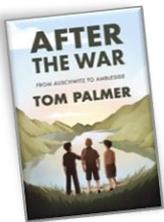
## YEARS 7 AND 8



### Look Both Ways By Jason Reynolds

When the bell rings and school is finished for the day, the walkers are finally set free. For ten blocks they have no-one telling them what to do; they can talk about bogies, skateboard, plan dramatic escapes, make jokes, face bullies, and hear about the school bus that fell from the sky...

In ten stories (one per block), find out what really happens on the walk home from school, when there are no parents or teachers to supervise (or stop the fun!). From hilarious escapades to brave challenges, join the walkers for one journey and many, many detours...



### After The War by Tom Palmer

Summer 1945. The Second World War is finally over and Yossi, Leo and Mordecai are among three hundred children who arrive in the English Lake District.

Having survived the horrors of the Nazi concentration camps, they've finally reached a place of safety and peace, where they can hopefully begin to recover. Will life by the beautiful Lake Windermere be enough to bring hope back into all their lives?



### Viper by Bex Hogan

Marianne has been training to be the Viper for her entire life - to serve and protect the King and the citizens of The Twelve Isles - but to become the Viper and protect the islands she loves she must find the strength to defeat her father.

Seventeen-year-old Marianne is fated to one day become the Viper, defender of the Twelve Isles. But the reigning Viper stands in her way. Corrupt and merciless, he prowls the seas in his warship, killing with impunity, leaving only pain and suffering in his wake. He's the most dangerous man on the ocean . . . and he is Marianne's father. She was born to protect the islands. But can she fight for them if it means losing her family, her home, the boy she loves - and perhaps even her life?

An impossible dilemma. An epic new fantasy trilogy set on the high seas.



### When Stars Are Shattered by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohammed

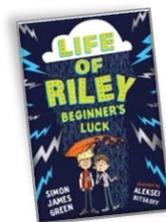
A heart-wrenching true story about life in a Kenyan refugee camp that will restore your faith in real-life happy endings. Omar and his brother Hassan, two Somali boys, have spent a long time in the Dadaab refugee camp. Separated from their mother, they are looked after by a friendly stranger.

Life in the camp isn't always easy. The hunger is constant . . . but there's football to look forward to, and now there's a chance Omar will get to go to school . . . With a heart-wrenching fairy tale ending, this incredible true story is brought to life by Victoria's stunning illustrations.



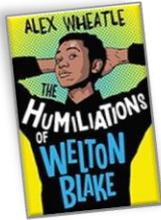
### The Good Hawk by Joseph Elliott and Levent Szabo

If everything was taken from you, what would you do to get it back? Agatha patrols the sea wall with pride, despite those in her clan who question her right to be there, because of the condition she was born with. Jaime is a reluctant Angler, full of self-doubt and afraid of the sea. When disaster strikes, the pair must embark on a terrifying journey to a land where forgotten magic and dark secrets lurk in every shadow...



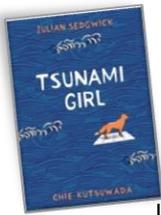
### Life of Riley: Beginner's Luck by Simon James Green

After a traumatic run-in with the fortune teller from a visiting funfair - thanks to an unfortunately-timed sneeze - Riley finds himself CURSED. Life as he knows it quickly becomes a catalogue of disasters - from wetting himself onstage during the school show, accidentally supergluing himself to his classmates and ruining the school football team's sponsorship deal, to flooding his house and losing class 4's pet rabbit - Riley knows the bad luck is out to get him. Enter new kid: Brad Chicago. He's super-cool, well-groomed and stylish, with an excellent stationery collection. And for some reason he wants to be Riley's friend. Can Riley get rid of the curse before Brad discovers he's a walking disaster?



### **The Humiliations of Welton Blake by Alex Wheatle**

Things begin to go downhill for Welton the moment he finally plucks up courage to ask out Carmella, "one of the most delicious-looking females in school." But, somehow, he manages to retain an infectiously upbeat stance throughout, punctuating his problems with Star Wars related exclamations ("Oh, for the life of Yoda!") as he navigates everything life throws at him - from Hulk-like moustachioed bully Brian and the strife between his divorced parents, to his intense fear of being "lamed and shamed" by Carmella. Welton's wit and entrepreneurial spirit is especially hilarious and sees him selling damning insults to classmates for 50p a cuss.



### **Tsunami Girl by Julian Sedgwick**

Yuki is staying in Osuma when the world starts shaking. She'd only just arrived in Japan. Struggling with her identity along with the pressures that many teenage girls face, her parents had decided a trip to the Japanese coast to see her beloved grandfather might help her out of her funk. She was still getting over her jetlag from the flight from London when everything starts to fall apart.

Haunted by the things she has seen and suffering from survivors' guilt, Yuki throws herself into her passion for illustration, a passion she also shared with her lost grandfather. Through her drawings, her friendship with fellow survivor, Taka, and particularly the creation of manga super-hero Half Wave, Yuki begins to come to terms with the trauma that she experienced, and finds the courage to embrace her future.

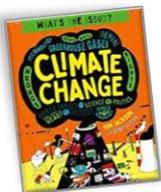
A part-manga, part-prose powerful coming-of-age story about a fifteen-year old girl caught up in the March 2011 Great Eastern Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.

### **Climate Change by Tom Jackson**

Climate change is one of the most pressing issues facing our nations today - but what is it?

Hasn't it always been happening? What is making it worse? Why do some people deny its happening? The concept of climate change and all of its implications is discussed as part of the What's the Issue series.

What's the Issue asks 'what's all the fuss about?' It reviews what is at stake when we think about climate change, with the aim of helping young people to understand this difficult subject and provide them with the tools to inform their own opinions on the issue.



### **Voyage of the Sparrowhawk by Natasha Ferrant**

In the aftermath of World War One, everyone is trying to rebuild their lives. If Ben is to avoid being sent back to the orphanage, he needs to find his brother Sam, wounded in action and is now missing. Lotti's horrible aunt and uncle want to send her away to boarding-school (when she has just so successfully managed to get expelled from her last one!) And Clara, their young teacher, is waiting for news of her missing fiance. Just as they think they've found their feet in the new order, disaster strikes, and Lotti and Ben must get away. And so they hatch a plan - to cross the Channel on Ben's narrowboat and find Sam. And there's something in France that Lotti is looking for, too...

Buffeted by storms, chased by the police, Lotti, Ben, Clara and a growing number of dogs set out on an epic journey, on the search for lost loved ones and a place to call home.



### **The Lost Soul Atlas by Zana Fraillon**

A boy awakens in the Afterlife, with a pocketful of vague memories, a key, a raven, and a mysterious atlas to guide him as he sets out to piece together what happened, and try to find his way home ... Twig is alone as a newly-made street kid after his dad goes missing.

But when he meets Flea, a cheerful pickpocket, the pair become fast friends. Together, Twig and Flea raise themselves on the crime-ridden streets, taking what they need and giving the rest to the even-poorer. Life is good, as long as they have each other.

But then Twig wakes up in the Afterlife with just a handful of memories from Earth and one big question ... how did he get there? Loyalty will be tested, and a cruel twist of fate will lead to an act of ultimate betrayal in this epic story that spans a city, a decade, and the divide of life and death itself. From the award-winning author of The Bone Sparrow.

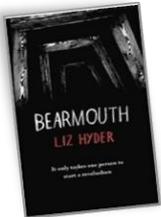


### **White Bird by R J Palacio**

A powerful, unforgettable graphic novel from the world of Wonder, by globally bestselling and award-winning author R J Palacio. To the millions of readers who fell in love with R J Palacio's Wonder, Julian is best-known as Auggie Pullman's classroom bully. White Bird reveals a new side to Julian's story, as Julian discovers the moving tale of his grandmother, who was hidden from the Nazis as a young Jewish girl in occupied France during the Second World War. An unforgettable, unputdownable story about strength, courage and the power of kindness to change hearts, build bridges, and even save lives, from the bestselling author of Wonder.

# NEW AND SUGGESTED READS

## YEAR 9/ABOVE



### **Bearmouth by Liz Hyder**

Life in Bearmouth is one of hard labour, the sunlit world above the mine a distant memory. Reward will come in the next life with the benevolence of the Mayker. Newt accepts everything - that is, until the mysterious Devlin arrives. Suddenly, Newt starts to look at Bearmouth with a fresh perspective, questioning the system, and setting in motion a chain of events that could destroy their entire world. In this powerful and brilliantly original debut novel, friendship creates strength, courage is hard-won and hope is the path to freedom.



### **Patron Saints of Nothing by Randy Ribay**

A powerful coming-of-age story about grief, guilt and the risks a Filipino-American teenager takes to uncover the truth about his cousin's murder.

When Jay Reguero hears of his cousin Jun's death, everything changes. Although years have passed since they were last in contact, the stories about Jun just don't fit with the boy Jay knew. Hoping to uncover the truth, Jay travels to Jun's home in the Philippines - but the shocking realities of life there lead to even more questions. Can Jay find the answers he seeks?



### **Concrete Rose by Angie Thomas**

Angie Thomas exploded onto the New York Times bestseller chart with her debut *The Hate U Give*, a novel which explored the Black Lives Matter movement through a fictional account of an unarmed black man killed at the hands of police, echoing all too clearly the myriad real life inspirations behind the story. The book has been on the NYT bestseller list for over 180 weeks now, and as more and more people make efforts to educate themselves about systemic racism, only continues to help readers understand and build empathy for the countless black people killed as a result of police brutality.

Her latest novel takes a deeper look at the societal injustices that can set the system against young black men from the beginning, leaving them little alternative but to get caught in the cycle of crime to survive.



### **Wranglestone by Darren Charlton**

Winter was the only season every Lake-Lander feared... In a post-apocalyptic America, a community survives in a national park, surrounded by water that keeps the Dead at bay. But when winter comes, there's nothing to stop them from crossing the ice.

Then homebody Peter puts the camp in danger by naively allowing a stranger to come ashore and he's forced to leave the community of Wranglestone. Now he must help rancher Cooper, the boy he's always watched from afar, herd the Dead from their shores before the lake freezes over. But as love blossoms, a dark discovery reveals the sanctuary's secret past. One that forces the pair to question everything they've ever known.

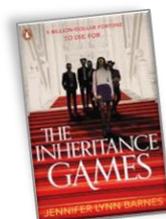
An action-packed and thought-provoking debut, for fans of Patrick Ness, Marcus Sedgwick, Dread Nation and The Walking Dead.



### **Somebody Give This Heart A Pen by Sophia Thakur**

From acclaimed performance poet Sophia Thakur comes a powerful first collection of poems exploring issues of identity, difference, faith, relationships, fear, loss and joy. Intricate, evocative and dazzling -

these are poems that explore the experiences that connect people; they encourage readers to look within and explore the tendencies of the heart.



### **The Inheritance Games by Jennifer Lynn Barnes**

An utterly addictive and twisty thriller, full of dark family secrets and deadly stakes.

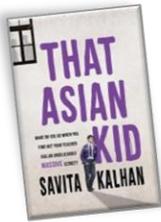
Perfect for fans of *One of Us is Lying* and *Knives Out*. She came from nothing. Avery has a plan: keep her head down, work hard

for a better future. Then an eccentric billionaire dies, leaving her almost his entire fortune. And no one, least of all Avery, knows why. They had everything. Now she must move into the mansion she's inherited. It's filled with secrets and codes, and the old man's surviving relatives - a family hell-bent on discovering why Avery got 'their' money. Now there's only one rule: winner takes all. Soon she is caught in a deadly game that everyone in this strange family is playing. But just how far will they go to keep their fortune? 'A fantastic rollercoaster of a book!



### **Burn by Patrick Ness**

On a cold Sunday evening in early 1957, Sarah Dewhurst waited with her father in the parking lot of the Chevron Gas Station for the dragon he'd hired to help on the farm. This dragon, Kazimir, has more to him than meets the eye. Sarah can't help but be curious about him, an animal who supposedly doesn't have a soul but is seemingly intent on keeping her safe from the brutal attentions of Deputy Sheriff Emmett Kelby. Kazimir knows something she doesn't. He has arrived at the farm because of a prophecy. A prophecy that involves a deadly assassin, a cult of dragon worshippers, two FBI agents - and somehow, Sarah Dewhurst herself.



### **That Asian Kid by Savita Kalhan**

What do you do when you find out your teacher has unbelievably massive secret?

This is a young adult story exploring the differences between a contemporary Asian teenager's upbringing and education compared to that of his parents'. Unlike them, Jeevan doesn't have to deal with the difficulty of being the only Asian kid in his school but keeping your head under the radar is no longer the only way to get on, and Jeevan has to jeopardise all the advantages his parents have given him in order to stand up for what's right.

Despite his hard work and brains, Jeevan, the fifteen-year-old protagonist is doing badly in his GCSE English Literature class. His teacher, Mrs Greaves, dislikes him intensely and Jeevan is convinced that he is the victim of racial prejudice. Can he stand up for what's right? When he comes upon her in the woods outside school in a compromising situation with another teacher, Jeevan can't help but film the scene on his phone. With this secret new ammunition at his fingertips dare he upload it to social media?



### **Good Girl Bad Blood by Holly Jackson**

Pip Fitz-Amobi is not a detective any more. With the help of Ravi Singh, she released a true-crime podcast about the murder case they solved together last year. The podcast has gone viral, yet Pip insists her investigating days are behind her. But she will have to break that promise when someone she knows goes missing. Jamie Reynolds has disappeared but the police won't do anything about it. And if they won't look for Jamie then Pip will, uncovering more of her town's dark secrets along the way... and this time EVERYONE is listening. But will she find him before it's too late?



### **The Good Immigrant by Nikesh Shukla (ed.)**

21 exciting black, Asian and minority ethnic voices emerging in Britain today, The Good Immigrant explores why immigrants come to the UK, why they stay and what it means to be 'other' in a country that doesn't seem to want you, doesn't truly accept you - however many generations you've been here - but still needs you for its diversity monitoring forms. Inspired by discussion around why society appears to deem people of colour as bad immigrants - job stealers, benefit scroungers, undeserving refugees - until, by winning Olympic races or baking good cakes, or being conscientious doctors, they cross over and become good immigrants, editor Nikesh Shukla has compiled a collection of essays that are poignant, challenging, angry, humorous, heart-breaking, polemic, weary and - most importantly - real.

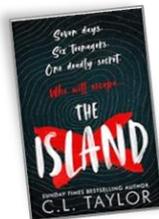


### **Clap When You Land by Elizabeth Acevedo**

Camino Rios lives for the summers when her father visits her in the Dominican Republic. But this time, on the day when his plane is supposed to land, Camino arrives at the airport to see crowds of crying people...

In New York City, Yahaira Rios is called to the principal's office, where her mother is waiting to tell her that her father, her hero, has died in a plane crash.

Separated by distance - and Papi's secrets - the two girls are forced to face a new reality in which their father is dead and their lives are forever altered. And then, when it seems like they've lost everything of their father, they learn of each other. In a dual narrative novel in verse that brims with both grief and love, award-winning and bestselling author Elizabeth Acevedo writes about the devastation of loss, the difficulty of forgiveness, and the bittersweet bonds that shape our lives.



### **The Island by C L Taylor**

Welcome to The Island. Where your worst fears are about to come true... It was supposed to be the perfect holiday: a week-long trip for six teenage friends on a remote tropical island. But when their guide dies of a stroke leaving them stranded, the trip of a lifetime turns into a nightmare. Because someone on the island knows each of the group's worst fears. And one by one, they're becoming a reality. Seven days in paradise. A deadly secret. Who will make it off the island alive?