



Spring
Issue

BOOK SMART

The Library Newsletter of
Thomas Mills High School



@LIBRARYTMHS



INTRODUCTION

Hello and welcome to the Spring edition of our Library newsletter, *TMHS:BookSmart*. This edition features book recommendations for middle grade students and teens and takes a look at this year's YOTO Carnegie Award.

The shortlisted books for the YOTO Carnegie Award were revealed at the start of March and contain works by some fabulous authors and illustrators. We will highlight our favourites in the first section of this newsletter and give an age rating for each to help you navigate them. Authors featured include the amazing verse-novelist Kwame Alexander, whose story focusses on Ghanaian history; a Carnegie Award regular, Joseph Coelho who has written a gritty book based on Greek mythology for older readers and Hiba Noor Khan who brings to the table a tale of tolerance and bravery. To view the whole shortlist, please head to:

<https://shorturl.at/KTVW9>.

We are currently searching for a dedicated team of Year 9 students to work their way through these books as part of the organisation's Shadowers' Award.

Students involved will get the opportunity to meet for discussion, create online reviews and share their feedback with the authors and adult judges alike! Four of our shadowers will also get the opportunity to compete against students from other local schools in our annual Carnegie Battle of the Books. If your child is interested, please can they email me at evale@thomasills.suffolk.sch.uk or pop into the school library for a chat about the awards.

In this issue, we will also take a brief look at summer term offerings and challenge you (and your child) to a series of Easter riddles.

Hope you all have a wonderful break!

All the best,

Miss Vale



YOTO CARNEGIE AWARD

Resilient voices and courageous characters are being celebrated in this year's YOTO Carnegie Award shortlist, which has been designed by the judges to empower young readers. Once again, most of the titles are aimed at a teenage audience (perfect for a Year 9 readership). We've included age ratings for each title below to help parents of Year 7-8 students.

THIS YEAR'S SHORTLISTED TITLES

All shortlisted titles below will be available to borrow from our school library next term for free (and are all worth a read):



1. **Away With Words** Sophie Cameron (Year 9+)
2. **Choose Love** Nicola Davies (Year 7+)
3. **Safiyyah's War** Hiba Noor Khan (Year 7+)
4. **Door of No Return** Kwame Alexander (Year 8+)
5. **The Song Walker** Zillah Bethell (Year 7+)
6. **Steady for This** Sita Brahmachari (Year 9+)
7. **Crossing the Line** Tia Fisher (Year 9+)
8. **The Boy Lost in the Maze** Joseph Coelho (Year 9+)



NEW BOOKS THIS TERM

We've put some fantastic new books on the shelves this term! Students can view (and reserve) them on our online catalogue: <https://bit.ly/3FVEORx>. Titles include Alice Oseman's *Heartstopper V*, Chris Bradford's *The Bodyguard* series and Steve Jackson's choose your own adventure books.



BRANCHING OUT

Almost all students fall into a reading rut at one point or another. These book are amazing for getting our students into reading again and branching out in terms of their choices. They're also all available to borrow at our School library.

If they liked J.K. Rowling books... try these:



If they liked Jeff Kinney books... try these:



If they liked Anthony Horowitz books... try these:



If they liked Michael Morpurgo books.... try these:



LIBRARY CLUBS: SUMMER TERM

Our library is a vibrant hub of activity and we have clubs, games, colouring and makerspace activities available every lunchtime. Comics and Cards, Chess Club, Ukulele Club, Film Club and Quiz Club will be continuing into the new term; Star Wars Club will replace Cubing Club going forward though. Students can also get involved in our yearly Comic Convention at the end of Summer term and much more!

HOLIDAY CHALLENGE

This Easter, why not introduce a bit of competition into the house and try our Holiday Challenge? How many can you and your family get correct?

QUESTIONS

1. What always comes into the house through the keyhole?
2. What kind of coat is always wet when you put it on?
3. What has 13 hearts but no other organs?
4. A doctor and a boy were fishing. The boy was the doctor's son, but the doctor was not the boy's father. Who was the doctor?
5. How many bananas can you eat if your stomach is empty?
6. What question can you never answer yes to?
7. A man was driving a black truck. His lights were not on. The moon was not out. A lady was crossing the street. How did the man see her?
8. What has many rings but no fingers?
9. You'll find me in Mercury, Earth, Mars and Jupiter, but not in Venus or Neptune. What am I?
10. What goes in a birdbath but never gets wet?
11. If you drop me, I'm sure to crack, but smile at me and I'll smile back. What am I?
12. I'm light as a feather, yet the strongest person can't hold me for five minutes. What am I?
13. What can you break, even if you never pick it up or touch it?
14. A man who was outside in the rain without an umbrella or hat didn't get a single hair on his head wet. Why?



