

learn to

love to

read

Reading Magazine



Winter 2023

Welcome



Welcome to the autumn edition of our reading magazine. In this edition you can find out about:

- The benefits of sharing books with your child
- Blue Peter book club author Terrie Chilvers and her book 'Michael, The Amazing Mind-Reading Sausage Dog'
- Some activities your child can do related to her book
- How to enter our competition
- Which books about dogs we recommend
- Which books the Learn to Love to Read staff have loved this year



Double click the image to the left or scan the QR code to watch this short video produced by Bookstart, about why sharing stories is important.



Did you know?

- Fewer than 3 in 10 (28.0%) children and young people aged 8 to 18 said that they read daily in 2023
- When asked what would make them want to read, 2 in 5 said that having books recommended to them would do this. 1 in 3 said being given books or having books that represent them would make them want to read. 1 in 4 said they would read more if family or friends talked about books.

Children and Young People's Reading in 2023, National Literacy Trust



Why is it important to share books ?





TERRIE CHILVERS

Author of 'Michael the Amazing Mind-Reading Sausage Dog'

Selected for the Blue Peter book club and recommended in the BookTrust great book guide 2023



Why did you want to be a children's book author and what inspired you?

I like entertaining people and I think kids are the best audience. I read Mr Gum for the first time when I first started writing for children and it really inspired me to get super creative. It's a triumph of hilarity and proves that you can never have too much quirk!

What is the best thing about being an author?

Making people laugh! And being able to give readers something that will transport them to a completely different world. I love that books can provide a bit of an escape when the real world feels a bit dark and gloomy.

Why did you choose a sausage dog as your main character?

I've always loved sausage dogs and how they seem so confident – they're not at all held back by the fact that they're small. So, it just seemed natural (and funny!) that a sausage dog would have big ambitions! Sausage dogs have so much personality and I really liked the idea of capturing some of that in Michael.

What books did you enjoy reading as a child?

I enjoyed reading Roald Dahl, especially Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and Matilda. And I loved anything with animals in!



How long did it take you to write this book?

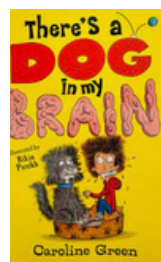
Quite a long time! I was working full time when I started writing Michael so had to squeeze in writing sessions at the weekend, on my lunch breaks, or whenever I could find the time. It probably took about 3 years and I definitely had to embrace the spirit of Michael's resilience to keep going when I was tired or finding something hard!

What are your top tips to any children who would like to be an author one day?

Write lots! And let your imagination run wild! Also, I find it helps to read my story out loud so I can hear which bits sound good and spot which bits might need changing if the sentences don't flow easily. Sometimes I get a friend to read it out for me.

What is your favourite book with a dog in (other than your own)?

I have loads of favourites! For kids who enjoy Michael, there's a book called *There's a Dog in My Brain* that I love – it's a super funny body-swap comedy about a boy called Danny who ends up swapping lives with his dog, Dudley. I'm also a big fan of the *Peanut, Butter and Crackers* series, which follows the lives of two pet dogs and a cat in a graphic novel format.



Are you writing another children's book at the moment?

I've just finished writing Michael's second adventure – *Michael the Incredible Super-Sleuth Sausage Dog*, where Michael has to turn detective when Susan the Chocolate Labrador gets dognapped. And I'm currently working on something brand new, but it's top secret for a little while!

You can find out more about this book and play games by clicking here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zpffcx/articles/zhmjtcw#zjw97v47>



Did you know that you can join the Blue Peter book club online?

[Click here to find out more](#)



Win!

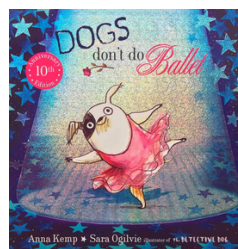
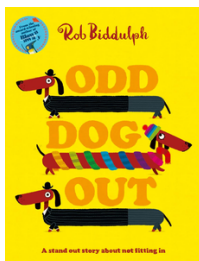
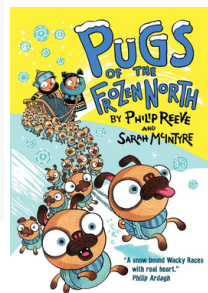
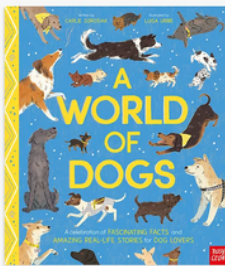
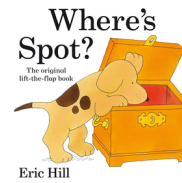
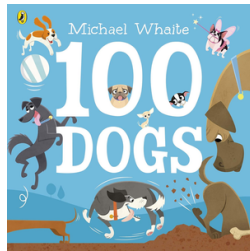
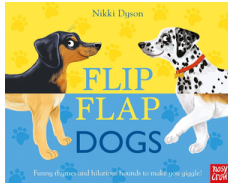
Enter our competition

Would you like to win a signed copy of this book?

Send us a photo, drawing or a written description of your favourite book you have read this year and we will enter your name into the prize draw.

Send your entries to office@l2l2r.org

Books we ♥ about dogs



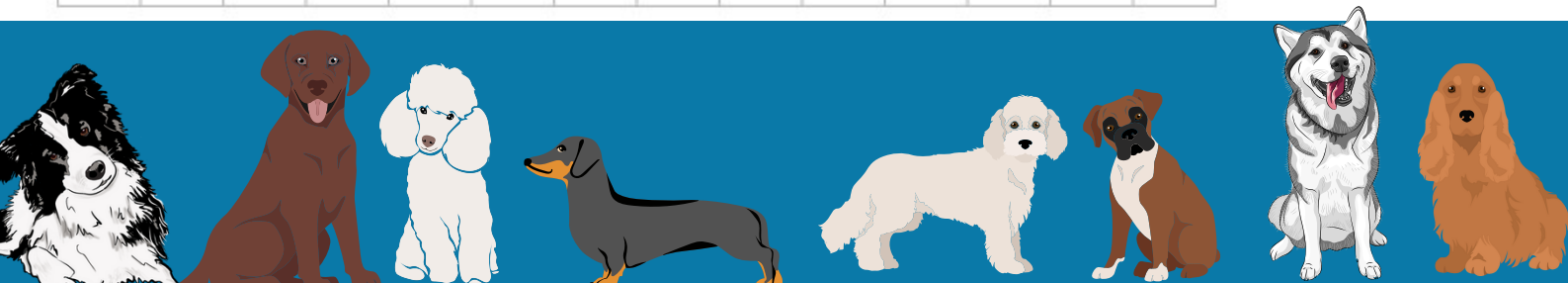


Wordsearch

Can you find these dog breeds?

H	B	I	L	B	X	K	L	S	A	A	S	R	B
R	S	R	D	O	H	D	H	R	L	D	H	L	O
C	K	S	R	R	U	B	R	Y	C	I	U	P	H
O	D	O	L	D	S	O	D	A	A	E	O	O	O
B	P	E	H	E	K	X	R	E	L	O	O	O	C
C	S	D	D	R	Y	E	O	I	A	S	P	D	R
S	E	S	E	C	H	R	D	S	B	R	A	L	D
Y	P	E	C	O	N	Y	A	L	S	S	K	E	S
E	O	A	R	L	S	O	R	A	S	O	C	D	P
O	K	O	N	L	N	N	B	L	H	U	O	E	D
L	C	U	O	I	L	K	A	O	A	N	C	E	E
D	X	P	K	E	E	E	L	O	S	R	C	N	L
C	D	P	S	B	C	L	L	O	E	K	L	E	C
I	B	I	D	N	U	H	C	S	H	C	A	D	P

BORDER COLLIE
DACHSCHUND
BOXER
POODLE
COCKAPOO
LABRADOR
HUSKY
SPANIEL



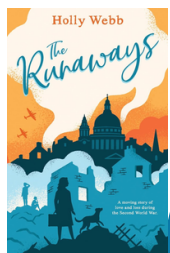
Staff picks



Tara chose 'The Last Bear' by Hannah Gold as it made her cry. She said that the descriptive language was so beautiful that she wanted to get a notebook and write the phrases down.

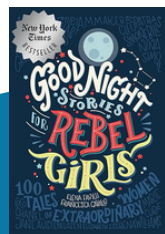
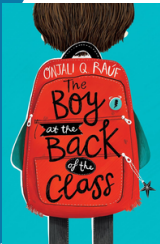


Matilda chose 'Once There Were Giants' by Martin Waddell'. She loves it because it has fantastic illustrations and describes the cycle of family life and passage of time so beautifully. She got it out of the library not knowing anything about it and absolutely sobbed when she read it to her children.



Helen chose 'The Runaways' by Holly Webb. It is a heart-warming story about a girl and her dog during World War II. The cliff-hanger as they meet other children on their adventures made my daughter eager to turn every page!

Taleya chose 'The Boy at the back of the class.' This story is about acceptance, friendship, kindness, inclusion and hope. Taleya feels that "Every adult and child should read this book at least once in their life to see the world from a child's perspective and to be as welcoming as a child can be."



Samreen chose 'Bedtime stories for Rebel Girls'. A book full of amazing stories about brave women who changed the world.

For more ideas of books to read [click here](#) or scan here:



LEARN TO LOVE TO READ

learn to

love to

read

Who do we work with?



partner schools
in Wandsworth



children's centres
in Wandsworth



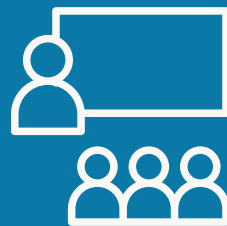
other charities
in Wandsworth



families living
in Wandsworth

What do we do?

Develop a
love of
reading



Workshops and
parent training



Training and providing
reading volunteers



Early Years' classes

Teach the
skills you need
to read



FIND OUT MORE BY SCANNING HERE OR
EMAIL: TARA@L2L2R.ORG



Could YOU be a Reading Volunteer?

Can you spare an hour a week to help local children who find reading difficult?

Find out more and apply online at www.learn2love2read.org.uk or scan the QR code below:



learn to

love to

read

ANY QUESTIONS?
Email: Matilda@l2l2r.org

Charity Registration Number: 1175288