

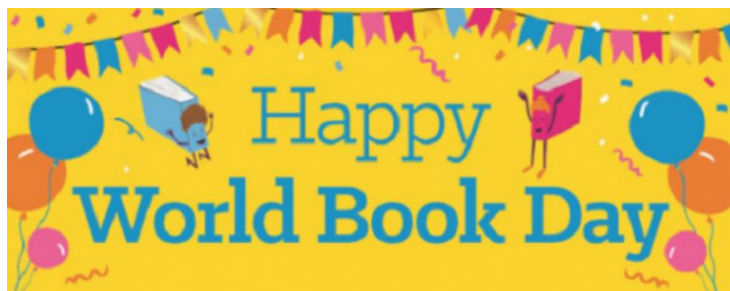
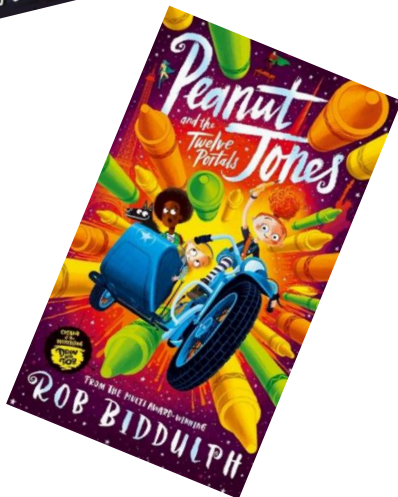


# Burford School Reading Review

March  
2023

## Author Visit: Rob Biddulph

On Monday 6th March, Years 2-6 were treated to a visit from Rob Biddulph, children's author and star of lockdown's 'Draw with Rob'. Rob inspired our budding illustrators and authors by showing a drawing he did when he was in Reception, and the creative journey he has been on since then. Pupils drew along with Rob, starting with a scribble and transforming it into a scruffy dog. Pupils also got to sing along, with Rob on guitar, to his latest story, 'The Blue Footed Booby'. Many of us ordered signed copies of 'Peanut Jones and the Illustrated City' and 'Peanut Jones and the Twelve Portals'. A huge thank you to Rob for spending the morning exciting our pupils. Where will your magic pencil take you?



On Friday 3rd March, Burford marked World Book Day, and what a day it was! We began with Gangsta Granny (aka Mrs Marshall) leading assembly, including a celebration of everybody's superb costume efforts and a quiz on staff members' favourite children's books. All classes participated in buddy reading: pupils were partnered with a child a few years older or younger than themselves and given time to read to each other. Teachers swapped rooms to share a book with a class in a different phase and introduced pupils to new authors and genres.



Burford School was abuzz with conversations about the pleasure of reading, including plenty of recommendations. We set up a mini shop so that every child got to spend their book voucher. Happy reading everybody!

### Mr Walker recommends

Holes by Louis Sachar

Peek inside:

"Here's a good rule to remember about rattlesnakes and scorpions: If you don't bother them, they won't bother you. Usually. But you don't want to be bitten by a yellow-spotted lizard."

### Mrs Butler recommends

The Faraway Tree by Enid Blyton

Here's an extract:

"The Faraway Tree is always there. We never, never know what land is going to be at the top. We have to be very careful sometimes because there might be a dangerous land - one that we couldn't get away from!"

### Mr Patten recommends

Beetle Boy by M G Leonard

Read the opening lines:

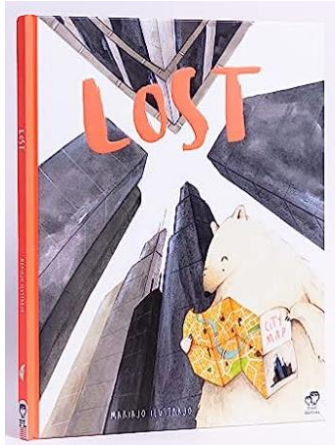
"Dr Bartholomew Cuttle wasn't the kind of man who mysteriously disappeared. He was the kind of man who read enormous old books at the dinner table and got fried egg stuck in his beard"

## Recommended reads for Easter 2023

New picture books for Spring!

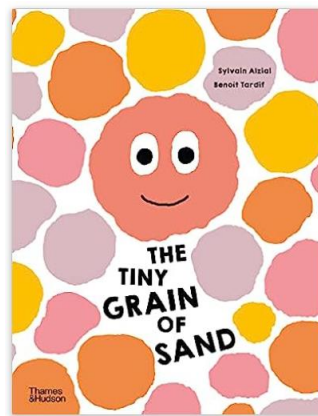
A polar bear finds himself lost, in a big concrete city. He politely asks the city folk for help but everyone is much too busy and impatient to help the newcomer.

This is a story about the power friendship has to help you feel found, and even to transport you home.



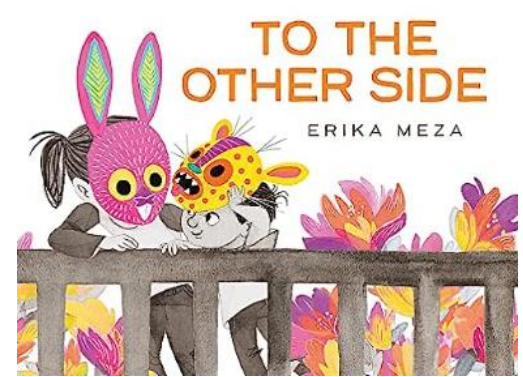
Once upon a time, there was a tiny grain of sand. Its life was rather boring, until one day it made a wish. Suddenly the grain of sand found out what it might be like to be something else – but is the grass always greener?

How can you be happy with your lot in a world full of temptation?



A young boy and his older sister have left home to play a game. To win, she tells him, they must travel across endless lands together and make it to the finish line.

And when it no longer feels like a game, the two children must still find a way to forge ahead and reach the other side.



## Miss Hatvany recommends (for parents and carers)

The Humans by Matt Haig

What a book! Made my 3 ½ hour train journey fly by. Wait until you're home to finish it – I cried. In the words of Matt himself:

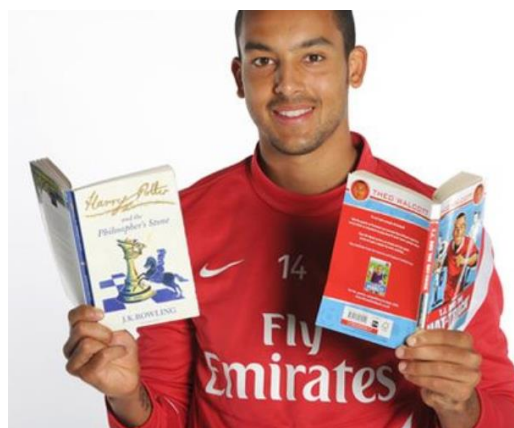
“This is the book I am most proud of. I have never written anything like it and probably never will again. I have no idea if you will like it. I really hope you do. I am a nervous wreck about this one. I don't really know why. Well, I do. Because it is personal. I put absolutely everything I had into it so if people don't like it then they don't like me, because all the best things I have to offer the world are inside its pages. I don't want to tell you it is a book that features an alien in it, because you might not like books with aliens in it, and I don't really. It is a love story and a murder story and a what-are-we-here-for? story. It is about humans. That is why I came up with the title. The Humans. See?”



## Working on being an athlete? Be a reader.

“You play football with your head, and your legs are just there to help you.”

So much of training focuses on the heart and lungs, but mental fitness is as important. The brain is the most complex organ in the human body and reading is proven to actively increase its power. Reading for pleasure is proven to train your brain to think faster, harder, and smarter. It could help players process information and spot patterns where others see chaos.



## First Line Quiz

Can you recognise the book from the opening sentence?

1. “All children, except one, grow up.”
2. “A mouse took a stroll through the deep dark wood.”
3. “Miss Cackle's Academy for Witches stood at the top of a high mountain surrounded by a pine forest.”
4. “Lyra and her daemon moved through the darkening hall, taking care to keep to one side, out of sight of the kitchen.”
5. “‘Yes,’ said Tom bluntly, on opening the front door.”
6. “If you went too near the edge of the chalk-pit the ground would give way.”
7. “The first place that I can well remember was a large pleasant meadow with a pond of clear water in it.”

- ANSWERS**
1. Peter Pan, J. M. Barrie
  2. The Gruffalo, Julia Donaldson
  3. The Worst Witch, Jill Murphy
  4. The Golden Compass, Philip Pullman
  5. Goodnight Mr Tom, Michelle Magorian
  6. Stig of the Dump, Clive King
  7. Black Beauty, Anna Sewell