

July 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians

Please find attached a task for the incoming Third Form students to complete over the summer for the English department and the Library.

The students are to read one of the books on the suggested list and then film a Vlog post on their phone that is no longer than two minutes long in the form of a review. During the first few lessons of the year they will be talking about the book that they read and showing their Vlog to the rest of the class. Two of these books have been recommended by the current Third Form as a really interesting and engaging read, and the others have been selected by the English Department and the Library. There are examples of other Vlogs on the task sheet.

In order for this to be shown successfully in class it will need to be shared with Mrs Foden from an online drive e.g. Gdrive by the end of the holidays, who will then distribute and share with the student's English teacher before their first lesson; therefore please send your Vlog to Mrs Foden by **31 August 2017**.

We are all very much looking forward to seeing you in September, and hope that you enjoy the summer.

With best wishes



Lyn Foden  
Stowe Librarian  
[lfoden@stowe.co.uk](mailto:lfoden@stowe.co.uk)



Allison Puranik  
Head of English and Faculty Chair  
[apuranik@stowe.co.uk](mailto:apuranik@stowe.co.uk)



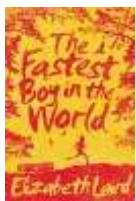


### Wonder - R J Palacio

'My name is August. I won't describe what I look like. Whatever you're thinking, it's probably worse.'

Auggie wants to be an ordinary ten-year-old. He does ordinary things - eating ice cream, playing on his Xbox. He feels

ordinary - inside. But ordinary kids don't make other ordinary kids run away screaming in playgrounds. Ordinary kids aren't stared at wherever they go. Born with a terrible facial abnormality, Auggie has been home-schooled by his parents his whole life. Now, for the first time, he's being sent to a real school - and he's dreading it. All he wants is to be accepted - but can he convince his new classmates that he's just like them, underneath it all?



### The Fastest Boy in the World - Elizabeth Laird

Eleven-year-old Solomon loves to run! The great athletes of the Ethiopian national team are his heroes and he dreams that one day he will be a gold-medal-winning athlete like them, in spite of his ragged shorts and

bare feet. When his grandfather announces that he's going to take Solomon to Addis Ababa, Solomon cannot believe his ears. A trip to the capital? It's unfathomable. Solomon's joy is increased when he realizes that the Ethiopian running team will be doing a victory parade through the city that day. Maybe he'll get a glimpse of Haile Gebrselassie or Derartu Tulu?!



### Jane Eyre- Charlotte Bronte

Orphaned into the household of her Aunt Reed at Gateshead, subject to the cruel regime at Lowood charity school, Jane Eyre none the less emerges unbroken in spirit and integrity. How she takes up the post of governess at Thornfield Hall, meets and

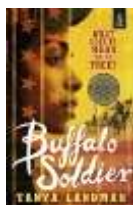
loves Mr Rochester and discovers the impediment to their lawful marriage are elements in a story that transcends melodrama to portray a woman's passionate search for a wider and richer life that traditionally accorded to her sex in Victorian society.

# Summer Reading Challenge 2017



Students pick of 2017

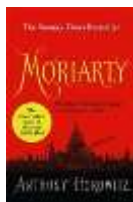
### Buffalo Soldier – Tanya Landman



Winner of the CILIP Carnegie Medal 2015.

"What kind of a girl steals the clothes from a dead man's back and runs off to join the army? A desperate one. That's who." At the end of the American Civil War, Charley – a young African-American slave from the deep south - is ostensibly freed. But then her adopted mother is raped and lynched at the hands of a mob and Charley is left alone. In a terrifyingly lawless land, where the colour of a person's skin can bring violent death, Charley disguises herself as a man and joins the army. Soon she's being sent to the prairies to fight a whole new war against the "savage Indians". Trapped in a world of injustice and inequality, it's only when Charley is posted to Apache territory that she begins to learn what it is to be truly free.

**Students review** – "This 360 page book by Tanya Landman is truly inspirational, exhilarating, mind blowing, gruesome, and disturbing story somehow put into one book. It taught me many things about history, racism and America... I absolutely loved it!"



### Moriarty – Anthony Horowitz

Sherlock Holmes is dead.

Days after Holmes and his arch-enemy Moriarty fall to their doom at the Reichenbach Falls, Pinkerton agent Frederick Chase arrives from New York. The death of Moriarty has created a poisonous vacuum

which has been swiftly filled by a fiendish new criminal mastermind. Ably assisted by Inspector Athelney Jones, a devoted student of Holmes's methods of investigation and deduction, Chase must hunt down this shadowy figure, a man much feared but seldom seen, a man determined to engulf London in a tide of murder and menace. The game is afoot . . .

## Task:

Pick a book from the following list to read over the summer holidays. Within the first two weeks of term you will be asked to talk about the book(s) that you have chosen with the rest of your class.

Also create a video blog about the book you have read:

- film yourself (Vlog) talking about the book as a review.
- It must be no more than two minutes' long and an original piece of work.
- Once you have completed your video blog you will need to create an online drive e.g. google drive and share it with [lfoden@stowe.co.uk](mailto:lfoden@stowe.co.uk)
- The best Vlog in each class will be awarded a prize .

Notes:

## What is Vlogging?

Vlogging is book reviews, films reviews or product reviews. Vloggers film themselves examining what they liked or disliked about the book and upload it onto the internet. Vlogging is a great way of developing your persuasive language and digital skills.

## Examples of book vlogging:

- **YouTube channels:**
  - ReadingWithJack
  - RachelOaes- Popular books I hate
  - LindseyformBFCG
- [How to start a book blog](#)
- [Top 5 YouTube book vloggers](#)