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# Knowsley Libraries Big Lock In

Hi All

While we're all still having to adjust and **stay safe** at this worrying time, we thought we'd bring you another issue of **Knowsley Libraries Big Lock In**. Lots of us are missing our family, friends and especially going out to our favourite places like the Library ☺ We decided that we'd put together this little newsletter with lots of bits and bobs in such as recipes, book recommendations, and we've even included a quiz to help ease the boredom.

So, a little bit of homework for you while you're unable to go out and about. I was wondering if you'd share with us 'What You're Reading in Lockdown', or your favourite book/author that you'd like to recommend to others.

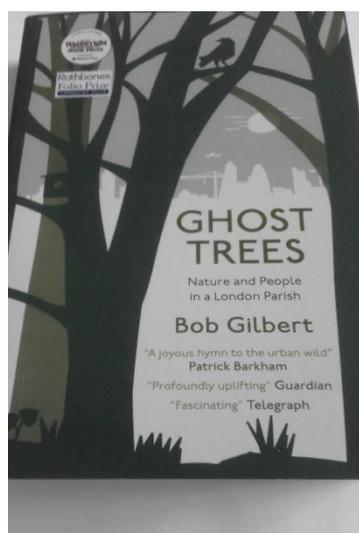
I've asked friends, family and colleagues to share with us what they're reading and it's quite a mix!

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## What are people reading?

**Review by Rob Duffy Knowsley Resident**

**Ghost Trees by Bob Gilbert**



This is not a ghost story anthology with a twist! Rather, naturalist Bob Gilbert, tries (quite successfully) to resuscitate London's East Enders' parish of **Poplar** connection with its history through botanical observation. He takes us by abandoned waterways, impersonal housing estates and seemingly life-denying glass tower developments on the filled-in docklands (this is **Canary Wharf** land), looking for trees as markers of cultural history as much as anything else.

Gilbert (though born south of the River, in inner London, moved to north and then east London) is ultimately fascinated by delineating east London's lost connection with nature-discerning the past from the traces of today (the "ghosts"); the book invokes almost a nostalgia for the loss of a simpler, rural past. He starts with the original tidal, flooded

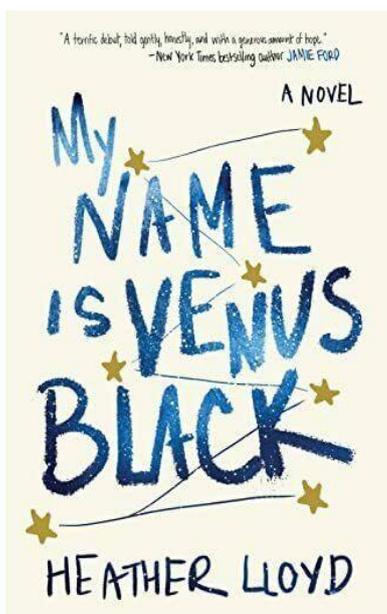
marshland, poplars, moving onto the expansive planting of avenue trees that came with urbanisation and so to the current century's less confident planting of cherries and rowans.

We follow the development of Poplar, from rural idyll, to commercial expansion and slum housing conditions, to the improved housing of the post war period, to a seemingly antiseptic and unapproachable present of big, very impersonal, investment.

Despite the enormous human changes, the message is that nature-despite our changing its cosmetic (evidenced by the move to plant 'exotic' trees) cannot be subverted. Anybody interested in searching the past traces of their localities, or even taking up tree identification, should find this a fascinating trail.

## **Book review by Michele, Casual Library Assistant**

### **My Name is Venus Black by Heather Lloyd**



Browsing Knowsley's on-line book service - BorrowBox I was attracted to this book by its beautiful but simple cover.

Its main protagonist is a 13-year-old girl, named Venus and she lives up to her name by being interested in astronomy, hence the stars that decorate the wording and the constellation of stars on the cover of the book. She is also a model, straight A student at school but at home it is a different story. Her Greek mother, Inez, is neglectful of both her and her developmentally challenged

brother, Leo. Inez does not protect Venus from her stepfather and refuses to believe her complaints. Venus is very close to Leo and knows how to calm him and provide safe routines so that he can cope.

One day it gets too much for Venus and she shoots her stepfather. It isn't until near the end of the book we learn the details of the crime, but what gets Venus sent to prison for six years is the fact that, apart from blaming her mother, she won't say anything more about why she has shot him. Leo gets kidnapped by his stepfather's brother for the simple reason that he doesn't think Inez will look after him. But although he really tries with Leo, he finds

looking after him too much and he leaves him, he stays for two weeks, with the family that he is boarding with. Tessa, a young girl, has heard Leo head banging and has developed a relationship with him and she begs her father to keep him and so he becomes part of their family.

That is, until Venus is released from prison aged nineteen. At first Venus has to try and forge a life for herself, which she finds difficult, especially getting accommodation and work, without references and regular qualifications. However, she strikes lucky getting free accommodation in return for looking after a nine-year-old girl, called Piper, who has an attitude just like she used to. Piper's uncle is a very good cook and is grateful for the help Venus gives him in looking after Piper in just the way she would have liked to have been looked after herself. Venus also manages to get a job in a cafe, called The Big Dipper and she is happy and well thought of by the owner and customers alike.

She hasn't forgotten about Leo and when she sees missing children being advertised on milk cartons, she puts the details about Leo's disappearance forward.

From then on, the story really gets emotionally charged and results in Leo's two families eventually coming together, after Venus turns detective, tracks him down and involves the police.

What is clever about this book is that the story is told mainly from the viewpoints of the children. It shows Venus developing and becoming morally responsible, wanting to make her life and those she comes into contact with, like Piper, the best that they can be.

As you read this book, you will see the character of Venus getting stronger, in spite of adversity. The hunt for Leo reads like a detective story and the reader can't help instinctively feeling protective of Leo because he is caught up in situations that he cannot understand and has no control over.

Inez and Venus are reconciled during the hunt for Leo. Venus returns Leo to Inez but has to take charge when she finds Inez cannot cope and all Leo wants is Tessa. It is hard for Venus because Leo wants Tessa like he used to want Venus. This situation is resolved and shows Venus has really become a responsible adult. You will have to read the book to find out her solution!

The moral of the story is that no matter how much a person messes up, it is never too late to make amends and strive to be a better person.

This Heather Lloyd's debut novel and she has created a 'constellation' of very strong characters which would be an enjoyable read for young adults as well as adults!

A very satisfying read!

# Lockdown Quiz:

Lockdown Quiz – courtesy of: **Hilary, Library Assistant**

## CONNECTIONS QUIZ

1. In Disney's Aladdin who provided the voice of the Genie?
2. What organisation was the enemy of the Man from UNCLE?
3. Which trilogy of novels did Flora Thompson write?
4. Which former goalkeeper died during the Munich air crash whilst working as a newspaper reporter?
5. What was the alternative name of Drake's flagship The Golden Hind?
6. Name the character played by Jodie Foster in the Silence of the Lambs?
7. Who had hits with Splish Splosh, Volare and My Boomerang Won't Come Back?
8. Which novel by Ken Kesey was set in a mental institution?
9. In Star Wars what was the name of Han Solo's spaceship?
- 10 What is the connection between the above nine answers?

**I'll add the answers next week, good luck!**

**The answers to last week's teaser are as follows:**

DAVID COPPERFIELD

SYDNEY CARTON (A TALE OF TWO CITIES)

NOAH CLAYPOLE (OLIVER TWIST)

THOMAS GRADGRIND (HARD TIMES)

NICHOLAS NICKLEBY



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Check out our ebooks on Borrowbox where we have lots of titles for you to enjoy. All you need is your library card and pin number, if you've forgotten them or you're new to Knowsley library service then just get in touch with us and we'll sort you out. Happy Reading!

<https://yourlibrary.knowsley.gov.uk/>

## Recipe of the Week:

I'd like to share some easy to follow and lovely to eat recipes from family, friends and colleagues.

**KFC Knowsley Fried Chicken**

**Provided by Lee - Digital Library Advisor**

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## Ingredients:

12 pieces of chicken, breast, thigh, drumsticks.  
500ml buttermilk (or 300ml plain yogurt, 200ml milk)  
100g plain flour  
50g corn flour  
2 tablespoons of smoked paprika  
2 tablespoons of sweet paprika  
4 teaspoons of salt  
2 teaspoons of dried basil  
2 teaspoons of dried oregano  
2 teaspoons of marjoram  
2 teaspoons of dried sage  
2 teaspoons of chilli powder  
2 teaspoons of garlic powder  
2 teaspoons of onion salt  
2 teaspoons of ground white pepper  
Vegetable oil.



Pierce the chicken pieces and place into a large bowl. Cover with the buttermilk, make sure all the pieces are covered, cover with cling film and place in the fridge for 4 hours.

Mix the flour, cornflour and all the herbs and spices in a bowl. Remove the chicken from the buttermilk scrape as much of the buttermilk as possible. Toss the chicken in the spice mix and place on a paper towel or tray.



Put 1cm of oil into a frying pan and shallow fry the chicken for a few minutes on all sides to crisp up the coating. Once fried dry on a paper towel and then place onto a baking tray.



Heat the oven 170c. Once all the chicken has been fried put into the oven for 15 – 20 mins or till the juices run clear.



Serve with some sweet chilli dipping sauce or some garlic mayonnaise. Or any dipping sauce of your choice.

## **FESTIVALS**

Summer is festival time for many people, but not in 2020 due to coronavirus. No need to miss out entirely though, and you can forget about wellies, tents and sunscreen, there are lots of sites bringing the festivals to your home during Covid-19 times.

## **LOCKDOWN LITFEST**

Litfest brings the real-life festival experience and delivers interviews, readings, masterclasses and more.

<https://www.lockdownlitfest.com/home>



## **JAMES JOYCE - ULYSSES**

The annual Bloomsday Festival in Dublin is celebrated every 16th June.

<http://www.bloomsdayfestival.ie/>

## **MUSIC FESTIVALS**

There are many sites which can bring festival acts to your home.

<https://www.radiotimes.com/news/on-demand/2020-06-08/sky-arts-front-room-festival/>

<https://www.stubhub.co.uk/magazine/virtual-festivals-summer-2020>

<https://www.theguardian.com/music/2020/jun/08/glastonbury-to-create-virtual-shangri-la-with-fatboy-slim-and-more>

[Glastonbury's Shangri-La goes virtual with Fatboy Slim and more | Music | The Guardian](#)

Glastonbury may be cancelled for 2020, but one of its most eye-catching areas will party on regardless: Shangri-La is to be recreated in a 3D digital form for a free two-day online festival in ...

[www.theguardian.com](http://www.theguardian.com)

<https://www.pianistmagazine.com/news/2020-aldeburgh-festival-to-be-replaced-with-celebration/>



[2020 Aldeburgh Festival to be replaced with celebration - Pianist](#)

In collaboration with partners including BBC Radio 3, BBC Four and BBC iPlayer, Aldeburgh Festival has announced it will present a celebration of Aldeburgh Festivals, with an offering of events from recent years to watch, listen to and explore online, as well as insights and projects delving much further back into the history of the unique festival.

[www.pianistmagazine.com](http://www.pianistmagazine.com)

<https://www.shakespearesglobe.com/watch/>



[Watch | Shakespeare's Globe](#)

Everything you need to know about streaming Shakespeare's Globe productions from the comfort of your home.

[www.shakespearesglobe.com](http://www.shakespearesglobe.com)

## **PREMIER LEAGUE FOOTBALL**

Football fans will be looking forward to the return of the Premier League and will welcome the fact that top matches will be available to view for free on the BBC and Sky Pick.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/football/53058264>



and the 2020 Euro Championship has been postponed until 2021

## **EURO FOOTBALL**

[https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/football/52646948?xtor=CS8-1000-\[Discovery\\_Cards\]-\[Multi\\_Site\]-\[SL02\]-\[PS\\_SPORT~C~A\\_Howtowatcheurosrewind\]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/football/52646948?xtor=CS8-1000-[Discovery_Cards]-[Multi_Site]-[SL02]-[PS_SPORT~C~A_Howtowatcheurosrewind])



[BBC Sport Euros Rewind: How and when to watch classic matches this summer - BBC Sport](#)

Follow BBC Sport Euros Rewind this summer and relive classic matches from European Championships across BBC TV, BBC iPlayer, the BBC Sport website and mobile app.

[www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)

## MACMILLAN QUIZ NIGHTS

Macmillan are organising virtual quiz nights to help raise funds for people living with cancer, they offer packs to help you arrange your event. The second link gives information on the work of the Macmillan organisation.

<https://gamesnight.macmillan.org.uk/quiznight.html>

<https://www.macmillan.org.uk/cancer-information-and-support/get-help/macmillan-nurses>



## **BBC DRAMA - ANTHONY WALKER**

Anthony Walker was killed in a racist attack in Huyton in 2005. This new BBC drama, written by Jimmy McGovern, will imagine how his life may have turned out.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-53052678>



[Anthony Walker: TV drama imagines future life of victim of racist murder - BBC News](#)

The life of Anthony Walker, who was murdered in a racist attack on Merseyside in 2005, is to be depicted in a BBC drama. But writer Jimmy McGovern has not portrayed the life 18-year-old Walker ...

[www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)

## **CHARLES DICKENS' FINAL YEAR**

Here is an interesting article on how Charles Dickens spent the last months of his life.

<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/travel/news/worst-of-times-why-charles-dickens-would-have-hated-lockdown/ar-BB15uK77?ocid=spartan-ntp-feeds>



[Worst of times: why Charles Dickens would have hated lockdown](#)

It is hard to imagine anyone less suited to living with any kind of restraint than Charles Dickens. Especially, I think, the hyperactive Dickens of 1857, the year he turned 45. By the last days of ...

[www.msn.com](http://www.msn.com)

## OOPS!

Who spotted the mistakes in the last issue? The eagle-eyed amongst you will have noted a couple of errors in the last edition. This year is the 150th anniversary of Charles Dickens' **death**, not his birth as stated. Which means that Anne Bronte is not "Born in the same year, and so an exact contemporary of Dickens". Anne Bronte was born in 1820 and Charles Dickens in 1812, so they are not exact contemporaries. This year is the 200th anniversary of her birth, not 150th as stated.

Well done to all who spotted the errors, and apologies to all those who were confused.

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## Meet the Staff: What are we doing during Lockdown?

Hello!

My name is Karen and I'm the newest Library Advisor. As yet I've not been able to start my new job due to the current pandemic, but I am looking forward to starting as and when conditions allow.

Like many of my Library Colleagues I'm working from home. At present I'm ringing our Home Delivery Customers on a weekly basis to check they're alright and if they need any help to provide them with the Helpline number. This is an extremely rewarding job. The range of people I get to speak to and the conversations we have are extraordinary. Many have vivid memories of the last war, even though they were young children/adolescents at the time. One lady lived in Southern England during WW2 and her memories are very different to those who were living in Liverpool. Another lady recalls growing up in Knowsley Village and recounted to me how the house looked and how her mother coped with a large family. These are precious memories and I feel privileged to be told them.



I am enjoying working from home. I miss my library colleagues but the wonders of modern technology means that we can see each other and chat which really does help. Most people working from home have children around the place. Instead yours truly has a Yorkshire Terrier (Millie), a rabbit, a visiting cat (or two...) and a cheeky robin that flies into the porch and steals the cat's biscuits. All of these keep me on my toes. It's a safe bet that at some point Millie will start to bark usually at someone who dares to walk past the house and get so excited that she falls behind the sofa and has to be rescued. Life is rarely dull and thankfully the people I ring are now used to my little pooch and regularly ask after her.

While I am enjoying working from home I'm looking forward to the challenges and changes that will be waiting for me when we start to return to the library. I'm sure the "new normal" way of working will feel odd to start with as did working from home but with all the staff being in the same boat I'm sure we'll help each other out. It'll be good to be working with my colleagues again and being able to welcome our customers back. Until then stay safe and "keeeeeeep reading!"

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## Podcast of the Week:

### **Grounded with Louis Theroux**

'Stuck at home, Louis is using the lockdown to track down some high-profile people he's been longing to talking to- from all walks of life and both sides of the Atlantic.'



This is a brilliant podcast with each episode as surprising and entertaining as the next. I listened because his first guest was the writer Jon Ronson, whose books I adore, but I ended up staying and listening to Boy George and Miriam Margolyes. A word of warning for anyone listening to Miriam's episode- it's not for the faint hearted! But very, very funny.

Here is the link to Louis' podcast series:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p089sfrz>

Whilst we're **staying safe** some of us are having a break from reading by listening to music, watching TV and a whole host of other activities. Here are some recommendations:

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## Album of the Week:

### **"Awaken, My Love!" by Childish Gambino recommended by Joe**

There seems to be no end to the talents of Donald Glover a.k.a Childish Gambino- writer and star of hit TV show Atlanta, stand-up comedian, film star and one of the biggest musical acts on the planet. This album from 2016 marks a significant shift in musical style, as he leaves the world of hip-hop and delivers us a funk-soul infused opus that clearly draws inspiration from the great George Clinton. Going to gigs is one of my favourite things to do, and I count myself lucky to have watched some brilliant musicians and performers, Childish Gambino is right near the top of that list.



'This Is America' is a song released in 2018 and the video has earned plaudits and admiration for its dissection of gun violence and American racism. Here is a link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VYOjWnS4cMY>

If you'd like to share your thoughts on this album, we'd love to hear from you. Drop us an email and let us know what you think! [yourlibrary@knowsley.gov.uk](mailto:yourlibrary@knowsley.gov.uk)

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# Films of the Week:

## Monday: Call Me By Your Name

**9pm Film 4 (Freeview 14, Freesat 300, Sky 313, Virgin 428)**

Based on the 2007 novel of the same name by Andre Aciman, this love story follows the tentative, sun-drenched romance between Timothee Chalamet's bookish teen and Armie Hammer's American grad student.



## Tuesday: The Road

**9pm Sony Movies (Freeview 32, Freesat 302, Sky 321, Virgin 425)**

Based on a novel by Cormac McCarthy, this is a bleak drama about a father and son struggling to stay alive in a world ravaged by an unspecified cataclysm.

## Wednesday: On Chesil Beach

**9pm BBC2**

Saoirse Ronan and Billy Howle star as newlyweds who arrive at Chesil Beach for their honeymoon and big night. An unconventional love story, adapted by Ian McEwan from his own novella.



## Thursday: The Nice Guys

**11pm ITV4 (Freeview 24, Freesat 117, Sky 120, Virgin 118)**

Ryan Gosling and Russell Crowe star as incompetent private detectives in this 1970s set comedy from Shane Black.

## Friday: The Lady In The Van

**10.45pm BBC1**

Fact based comedy drama starring Maggie Smith as the great British eccentric who made the leafy London driveway of writer Alan Bennett her home for fifteen years.

If you'd like to share your thoughts on any of the films, we'd love to hear from you. Drop us an email and let us know what you think! [yourlibrary@knowsley.gov.uk](mailto:yourlibrary@knowsley.gov.uk)

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## Something for the Kids:

If you've missed Joe Wicks exercising in the morning you can catch up with him here

<https://www.youtube.com/user/thebodycoach1/videos>

He's keeping kids fit and healthy and lots of the parents are joining in too, looks like lots of fun.

## SITES TO TRY FOR THE KIDS

### SAVE THE CHILDREN - KEEPING KIDS ENTERTAINED DURING LOCKDOWN

From building dens to making pompoms, with dancing, recipes and Peppa Pig, this site has lots of ideas for entertaining little ones.

<https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/what-we-do/coronavirus-information-advice/keeping-kids-entertained-during-lockdown#make>



#### [Keeping Kids Entertained During Lockdown | Save the Children UK](https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/what-we-do/coronavirus-information-advice/keeping-kids-entertained-during-lockdown#make)

Keeping kids entertained during lockdown Welcome to the most fun part of the den, full of ideas to help children get creative and fire up their imagination while they're at home. It's been made hand in hand with our early learning experts, who have used their knowledge of what works for children at different ages and stages.

[www.savethechildren.org.uk](https://www.savethechildren.org.uk)

# Craft Time

## Pop up flower craft

### What you will need

- 2 plastic/paper cups
- 1 plastic straw
- Tissue or crepe paper
- Sellotape
- Scissors
- Brown paint



Cut the bottom off one of the cups, this will be your plant pot. Paint it brown and set it aside to dry.

Then cut  $\frac{3}{4}$  off the top of your second cup and put a small hole into the base.



Take a few sheets of tissue or crepe paper and cut out some circles to make your flower.



Poke a small hole into the middle of your paper circles and pop in your straw.

Use Sellotape to stick the paper flower head onto the straw stem.



Take your painted plant pot and turn it upside down and tape the cut cup section inside, at the bottom. This little section will hold your flower stem.



Put plant pot the right way up and pop your straw flower stem through the little hole inside.



## Book Recommendations/Reviews

### Esio Trot- by Roald Dahl

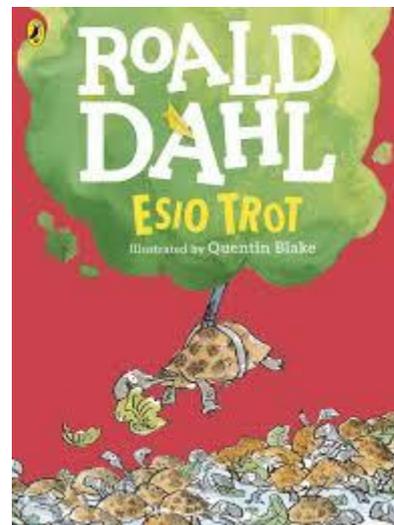
High up in a tall building lives Mr Hoppy all alone. Downstairs lives Mrs Silver. Mr Hoppy loves her. And Mrs Silver loves her tortoise, Alfie. Oh, if only Mr Hoppy could perform some great feat that would make him a hero in her eyes! Then one day his mind goes *click* and an amazing idea rushes into his head. With the help of a magical spell, some cabbage leaves and one hundred and forty tortoises, can shy Mr Hoppy win Mrs Silver's heart?

*Roman, aged 9*

*This book is about a tortoise and a man called Mr Hoppy. Mr Hoppy is in love with the tortoise's owner, the lovely Mrs Silver. Mrs Silver goes out to work every day and he swaps her tortoise, called Alfie, for a bigger tortoise. He told her that if she read a script to Alfie every day, he would get bigger. All he wanted was for Mrs Silver to love him.*

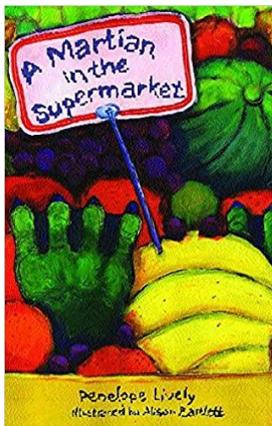
*I liked this book and the illustrations, also tortoises are my favourite animal. I liked the bit when the fatter tortoise could not fit into Alfie's hut.*

*I would recommend this book to children aged 8 plus.*



## A Martian in the Supermarket by Penelope Lively

Judy first sees the Martian when her mum's looking for fish fingers. She isn't scared, but he's a bit nervous. His rocket's engine won't start, so Judy takes him back to her house while they think of a plan. They soon become good friends and avoid detection in ingenious ways. But the Martian soon becomes homesick, and so Judy must take him back to the supermarket to try to find the rocket and see if it can be prepared. But something has happened to the rocket in the meantime - will the Martian ever be set free?



Reviewed by Evie aged 6

*The characters in this book are Martian, baby, Judy, Mum, Nora and the dog. I really liked the characters. They made me feel worried in the beginning but then I knew they were good and was not so worried. I think this book was fun to read because The Martian had just passed his driving test and the rocket went wrong. He found a little gap to get through, so he slept in the supermarket.*

*I loved this book so much. My favourite part was when Judy took the Martian home. There was a scary part when Judy took him home because he could have been a baddie. I have learnt that it is hard to drive cars.*

*I would recommend this book to my friends because it was very funny.*

## QUIZ TIME

### Roald Dahl quiz

1. Who runs the chocolate factory?
2. Who did George make his medicine for?
3. Who did the BFG snatch from the 'norphanaage'?
4. Who is the Champion of the World?
5. What did Danny's father hunt?

6. Who is Matilda's headmistress?
7. What do the Giraffe, the Pelly and the Monkey do?
8. What story is about a 'Fantastic' animal?
9. What does the Enormous Crocodile like to eat?
10. What does Mrs Twit put in Mr Twit's spaghetti?
11. What was Roald Dahl's favourite colour?
12. Where was Roald Dahl born?
13. How many children did Roald Dahl have?
14. Name one of Roald Dahl's pets
15. Name one of Roald dahl's schools
16. Which book tells tales of Roald Dahl's childhood?
17. What colour paper did Roald Dahl write on?
18. Who is Liccy Dahl?
19. Where did Roald Dahl write his stories?
20. What did Roald Dahl do in the Second World War?

**I'll add the answers next week, good luck!**

**How well did you do with last week's quiz? You can check to see how many you got correct, may be all ten!**

**The answers are below:**

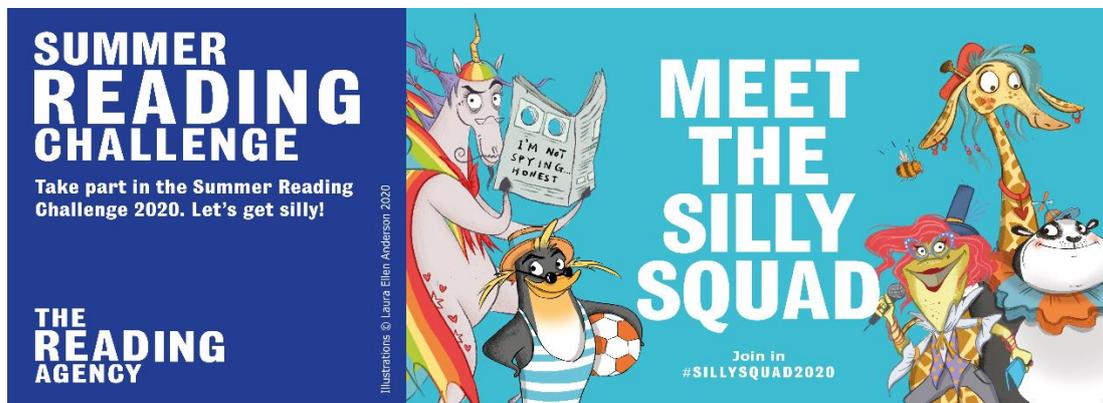
1. Pup
2. Tinkerbell
3. Dog
4. Horse
5. Little Bo Peep
6. Frogs
7. Meat
8. 30 Days
9. Horse Chestnut
10. Wellington

# DON'T FORGET

The theme for this year's Summer Reading Challenge is "Silly Squad" - a celebration of funny books, happiness and laughter.

Sign up for the Challenge at [sillysquad.org.uk](https://sillysquad.org.uk). The site is free to access and will feature video content, games, quizzes, and digital downloadable activities to incentivise and encourage children and their families to take part in the Challenge at home. It is a place for children to rate and review their books and work towards their reading goal.

Challenge starts on Friday 5 June 2020 and will run until September



Keep Reading 😊

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