



The London Nautical School

61 STAMFORD STREET, WATERLOO, LONDON SE1 9NA.

TELEPHONE: 020 7928 6801

FAX: 020 7261 9408

e-mail: admin@nautical.lambeth.sch.uk

www.lns.org.uk

July 2013

Dear Year 6 Students, Parents and Carers,

We are looking forward to welcoming you to the London Nautical School's English Department when you start in September. We would like you to arrive prepared to share some of your thoughts on reading and show us what you can do as writers.

We all read every day for different reasons – it may be the bus timetable to check which bus will take you to Waterloo, the manual of your latest computer game or a free newspaper. But do you read for pleasure? Teachers like summer holidays as it gives them time to catch up on their own reading for pleasure and we hope that you will get the chance to do so as well. Check out your local library, often they have a reading competition over the summer.

READING

What we would like you to do is to pick a book that you read over the summer and come to school next term with a piece of work that will encourage others to read the same book.

You can do any ONE of the following:

- Design a poster to advertise the book – giving us just enough detail to rush off to the library for a copy!
- Write a review of the book – you can check the following website for reviews written by other students and submit your review if you like! Information about how to join at: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/childrens-books/2011/mar/02/how-do-i-get-involved-guardian-childrens-books>
- Draw one of the characters in the book and tell us a bit more about this character.
- Make a list of 5 good reasons why we should read this book!

Remember to include **the book's title and author**. You can do this on paper or use a computer. Make sure you have your name and surname on the piece of work. Only write or print on one side as we will put your reading work up as part of a display so that others can read what you have to say about the book of your choice.

If you are stuck for inspiration, a recommended book list is included with this letter.



The London Nautical School

61 STAMFORD STREET, WATERLOO, LONDON SE1 9NA.

TELEPHONE: 020 7928 6801

FAX: 020 7261 9408

e-mail::admin@nautical.lambeth.sch.uk

www.lns.org.uk

WRITING

We are also inviting you to bring in an example of your writing when you arrive in September. You can pick a piece of work you did in Year 6 that you are proud of and bring this with you; or, if you are keen to write your own stories or poems do write something to share with your teacher and class. We would really appreciate it if you wrote a few lines to explain why you chose this particular piece of writing and how you came to write it. (For example it was a story based on a poem or telling something from a particular character's point of view.) It could be that you know it shows how well you choose words to describe something or it could be a story that everybody in your class found scary or entertaining – the choice is up to you! It need not be a story; it can be any type of writing, for example a piece of research you enjoyed doing or a leaflet that you created. The few lines telling us why you chose it and the reason why you wrote it will enable us to appreciate your writing all the more.

If you are a keen writer, you may want to write something for the website called 247tales.com, run by Bloomsbury publishers. Every month there is a theme and an author writes a story of 247 words. You are then invited to write your own story in 247 words on the same theme and submit it to the website. There is one winner every month – here is the link:

<http://247tales.wordpress.com/>

We are looking forward to seeing you next term with your feedback on a book you have read and an example of a piece of writing you want to share with us. You can also look on the English department's website, edutronic.net for a copy of this letter and the reading list.

Happy reading this summer – we will share our reading with you in September!

The LNS English Department.

Stuck for something to read? Here are some suggestions:

Every year the librarians offer an award for one of the new books published that year, it is called the Carnegie medal. The short listed books this year are:

Wonder by R.J.Palacio - this book tells the story of a boy who goes to middle school in America; but for medical reasons he has not attended a school before. The story follows him through his first year at school. Some chapters are told from the point of view of his sister and other friends.

A Greyhound of a Girl is by Roddy Doyle - you may enjoy some of his other books as well, like the Rover adventures called *The Giggler Treatment*, *Rover Saves Christmas* and *The Meanwhile Adventures* - these books are very funny!

Midwinterblood by Marcus Sedgwick spans hundreds of years and explores the idea of sacrifice and love. Another Marcus Sedgwick book you may enjoy is *Revolver* - it is a gripping adventure story that involves gold and a mysterious stranger.

Sarah Crossan wrote *The Weight of Water* - this book tells the story of a girl who moves to Coventry with her mother. The one thing she is good at is swimming, but life at school and at home become very difficult for her. The book is written in the form of poems, but easy to read and imagine what her life is like.

Another good adventure story set in the Second World War is *Code Name Verity* by Elizabeth Wein. You may have seen posters advertising this book in tube stations. Other books short listed this year are *A Boy and a Bear in a Boat* by Dave Shelton and *In Darkness* by Nick Lane. The winner of this year's medal was Sally Gardner for *Maggot Moon* - have a read and see if you agree with the judges' verdict!

OTHER SUGGESTIONS:

Love that Dog by Sharon Creech. This is an excellent example of a story where you have to read between the lines to find out more - other Sharon Creech books you may enjoy are *Heartbeat* and *Granny Torelli Makes Soup*. She has written a number of books so if you enjoy her style of writing there are more to choose from.

If you enjoy reading books set in the future that also explore how climate change may affect the earth in future try *Exodus* by Julie Bertagna. If you enjoy it read the sequels, *Zenith* and then *Aurora*. They are quite long so ideal for those of you who want a thick book that will last!

If you have read *Holes* by Louis Sachar you will enjoy *Small Steps*, the follow up that is about one of the boys we meet in *Holes*. Other Louis Sachar books you will enjoy are

There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom and *The Boy Who Lost His Face*, a really good story about how the consequences of one deed may follow you for a long time.

The Diary of a Wimpy Kid books by Jeff Kinney will be familiar to most of you and if you enjoyed them try reading the *Big Nate* books by Lincoln Peirce. If you like reading a series like this you can also try the *Mr Gum* books by Andy Stanton.

If you enjoy books with a historical setting we can recommend the following:

Fire, Bed and Bone by Henrietta Branford; *VIII* by H.M.Castor, a book about Henry VIII as a young boy, *Witch Child* and *Sorceress* (the sequel) by Celia Rees as well as her book *Pirates*. Another book with a historical setting is *Coram Boy* by Jamila Gavin. If you have ever been to Coram's Fields near the Brunswick Centre read this book! (For another book set in a well-known London landmark read *The London Eye Mystery* by Siobhan Dowd.) If you are keen on a whole series of books that are well written and set in the Iron Age try Michelle Paver's series *Chronicles of Ancient Darkness*, the first book is called *Wolf Brother*.

If you like murder mysteries try the *Poppy Field Murder Mysteries* by Tanya Landman. The first one in the series is *Mondays are Murder*. A more challenging read is her book *Apache*, exploring the main character's growing up and changes in the world of an American Indian tribe.

There are a number of good books set during the Second World War, some have been around for some time others are more recent publications. Many of you will know *The Diary of Anne Frank*, but you can also try *Zlata's Diary* by Zlata Filipovic, set during the time of a more recent war. Other books you may enjoy are Judith Kerr's *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit* Sandi Toksvig's book *Hitler's Canary*, about a theatrical family helping Jews escape during the Nazi occupation of Denmark. Another haunting book is *Milkweed* by Jerri Spinelli and *The Silver Sword* by Ian Serraillier - both these books deal with children's experience of war. In the same category is *I am David* by Anne Holm, a timeless book about a boy escaping from a camp and searching for his mother. A good read to understand changes in Germany during the time of the Second World War is *Friedrich* by Hans Richter. For two more challenging books set during this time read *Tamar* by Mal Peet and *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak, one of the best books I have ever read.

And finally, some more books that form a series: *The Hunger Games Trilogy* by Suzanne Collins (starting with *The World of The Hunger Games*) and a good, challenging read, Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials* trilogy, starting with *Northern Lights*.