

The Kingslea Review

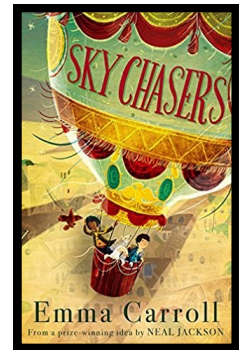
Welcome to the third issue of *The Kingslea Review*. In this edition, we will take a close look at some of the most exciting children's books available at the moment.

We will hear from Mr Conway and Mrs Payne, and also from debut author, Vashti Hardy whose wonderful book *Brightstorm* is reviewed in this issue.

We will be taking a look at some of the brand new releases that will soon be filling the shelves in your favourite book stores.

Year 3-4 Recommendation

Sky Chasers by Emma Carroll is a fantastic adventure story based on the real life Montgolfier family and their quest to be the first people in the world to create a hot air balloon. The story follows Magpie, a young thief, who is employed by a shadowy figure to steal the Montgolfier's plans. However things don't go quite to plan and with faithful pet cockerel Coco coming along for the ride, Magpie enters a world of suspicion, mystery and science. Embarking on a desperate race against time to make sure that the French not the English are the first nation to take to the sky Magpie also has to keep her dark burglar past secret from those around her. Can she do it and will she ever take to the sky?



Recommended by Brightstorm author, Vashti Hardy

I would like to recommend *Alex Sparrow and the Furry Fury* by Jennifer Killick. If you've already read *Alex Sparrow and the Really Big Stink*, you'll already know that you're in for a gigglingly great read. Alex and Jess are back, and their embarrassing super powers are out in force as they try to solve the mystery of why the animals at the local sanctuary are terrified, alongside other strange events such as squirrels turning mean. What I love most about book 2 is that we see Alex and Jess's characters develop; beneath their often prickly relationship there is a real and warm friendship.

You'll love the animals too, especially Bob the Goldfish and Mr Prickles the hedgehog! The Alex books never fail to make me shoulder-shake laugh, but most of all, this story is about the power of kindness. I think there are lots of young readers out there for who this could ignite a real love of story. This book is divided into short, readable chapters, each one ending on a cliff hanger, with illustrations throughout. You will be on the edge of your seat and you will never see the natural world the same away again.



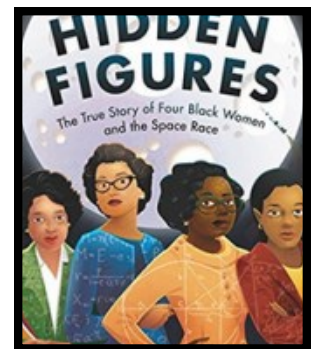
Year 5-6 Recommendation

Brightstorm by Vashti Hardy is a true adventure rollercoaster full of intrigue, suspense and a whole myriad of wonderful, loveable characters that will leave you hoping for more. Our heroes are the recently-orphaned Brightstorm twins, Maude and Arthur whose father has been accused of stealing! This means they will lose all of the inheritance they were due to receive. With no money and no prospects, they are thrown into a dark Dickensian world that they see no escape from. However the arrival of their father's missing friend heralds a change in their fortune and they are swept away on a wonderful race to the South Polaris. Lurking in the shadows remains a dangerous figure however and the twins best watch their step!



Non-Fiction

Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race by Margot Lee Shetterly tells the story of the women behind the maths that won the space race. A picture book version of the award winning film, this book is interesting, informative and prompts some wonderful conversations.



The Buildings that Made London by David Long (illustrations by Josie Shenoy) takes the reader on a tour of some of the most significant London landmarks including St Pauls, Big Ben and Kew Gardens. Using wonderful illustrations to show key details and clear information to explain key facts about each it is a real gem of a book and one that can lead to many happy trips to the capital.

Recent Releases

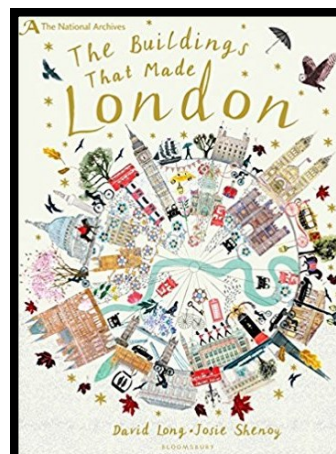
How to Bee by Bren MacDibble

Rose Rivers by Jacqueline Wilson

The Burning Maze by Rick Riordan

Firecrackers by Zoro Well

The Uncracked Code by Tamara Macfarlane



Recommended by Oscar in 5I—*The Hobbit* by J.R.R.Tolkien

The Hobbit is a literary classic written by J.R.R.Tolken. It tells the tale of a young hobbit (hence the book's name) named Bilbo Baggins as he embarks on a perilous quest in search of the dragon Smaug. This is a good book for anyone who enjoys the mystical creatures in books such as Harry Potter. I would recommend this book for children aged 9-11 and would read it before watching the film or reading the Lord of the Rings (the sequel). I hope you enjoy reading this book as much as I did.

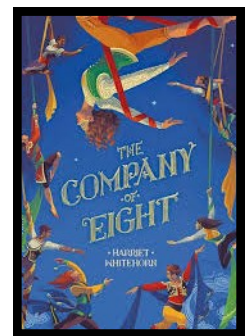
Recommended by Isla in 5K—*The Explorer* by Katherine Rundell

The Explorer is an amazing book written by Katherine Rundell. A boy called Fred is in an aeroplane with three other children and a pilot but the plane crashed and they have to try and live in the Amazon Rainforest. I think that this book is good for 9-12 year olds that like adventure stories. I would recommend it as an amazing read.

Mrs Payne's Part

The Company of Eight by Harriet Whitehorn was released earlier this month and follows Cassandra on an adventure around a multitude of islands to chase her dream of performing on The Circus Ship after she misses her only chance to audition in her home city of Minaris. However, the things Cass believes to be true and the people she meets along the way aren't quite as they seem. She finds herself engulfed in an undercover operation aided by friends she has made along the way.

One thing which makes this book unique is the inclusion of maps in each chapter so it is easy to identify where Cass is on her quest around the islands. With a brilliant main character and an exciting plot, this is a charming story for children in years 5 or 6 to enjoy, especially if they are riding the circus waves after enjoying *The Greatest Showman*.



Mr Conway's Corner

The Legend of Podkin One-Ear by Kieran Larwood.

It took me a while to get around to reading Podkin. I really wasn't sure about warrior rabbits. Maybe because I'm still recovering from watching *Watership Down* as a child. But what a book, I loved it. The characters, the adventures, the settings – the action is fast paced, you care about the characters and the baddies – they really are frightening. Find out why Podkin only has one ear and travel with him on his adventures, I loved it so much I read it in a week!

