



Our Ref.: BSE

Dear Year 6 Parents / Guardians,

Re. Year 6 Transition – Reading Challenge

I write to welcome you and your daughter to the Upton community and to seek your support in promoting our English Department's belief that a lifelong love of reading begins at home, as well as taking place in school.

With this intention in mind, I am writing to you to encourage your daughters to spend the summer holidays reading one of the following recommended books. Each book has been carefully selected by the English Department and our librarian, Mrs McDonald, with the help of some of our 6th form students. Each novel reflects our school values and features a strong female protagonist. The list has been designed to provide a range of world voices and presents a diversity of experiences.

To help your daughter to select a book that she will enjoy engaging with, please help them to read through the following information and visit the library section of our school website, to watch our introductory videos recorded by sixth form students.

[Year 6 Reading Challenge - Introductory Videos to the reading list](#)

Reading Challenge List



'A Kind of Spark' [2020] by Elle McNicoll is an award-winning, neurodivergent-authored novel following Addie, an 11-year-old girl. When Addie learns that her Scottish hometown once executed women for witchcraft, she campaigns for a memorial, fighting against the same kind of prejudice and misunderstanding she faces daily.



The House with the Chicken Legs [2019] by Sophie Anderson by Sophie Anderson is a magical, reimagining of the Slavic Baba Yaga folklore. It follows 12-year-old Marinka, who lives with her grandmother in a magical, roaming house, as she struggles to define her own destiny away from the family legacy.



Asha and the Spirit Bird [2019] by Jasbinder Bilan is a magical-realist adventure where eleven-year-old Asha crosses the Himalayas to find her missing father. Guided by a majestic spirit bird that she believes is her late grandmother, she and her best friend Jeevan face the wilderness to save their family farm.

Upton Hall School FCJ

Upton, Wirral, Merseyside CH49 6LJ

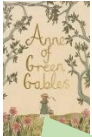
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Headmistress: Mrs A Gaunt BSc (Hons) NPQH



Safiyyah's War [2023] by Hiba Noor Khan is historical novel that tells the true story of the Grand Mosque of Paris during the Nazi occupation of World War II. When her once-harmonious city is turned into a place of fear, a young Muslim girl named Safiyyah helps her family rescue hundreds of Jews from persecution.



Upton Classic: Anne of Green Gables [1908] by Lucy Maud Montgomery is a classic coming-of-age story about Anne Shirley, an imaginative and spirited 11-year-old orphan, that is mistakenly adopted by elderly siblings Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert to help on their farm on Canada's Prince Edward Island.

Challenging
Read

Library Lessons

The English Curriculum includes a library lesson once a fortnight. The first lesson will be an opportunity for the students to present to each other the book that they have read and share what they think about it. In subsequent lessons, students will have time to complete private reading, deliver book pitches and take part in author events. To encourage reading engagement, students are asked to read for twenty minutes a day at home and participation is rewarded through the Reading Cup Challenge.

Drama and Curriculum Enrichment

In addition to the reading challenge, your daughter might also enjoy watching different filmed theatre performances. In Year 7, she will study *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare and there are many productions to choose from through our subscription to the outline platform Digital Theatre. In addition, I would personally like to recommend the acclaimed York Theatre Royal production of E. Nesbit's cherished novel, *The Railway Children*. Filmed live from the National Railway Museum, it features the original locomotive from the much-loved 1970's film; an extraordinary theatrical experience for even the most seasoned of theatre-going families to enjoy. The novel explores themes of justice, the importance of family and kindness to strangers, which are all ideas central to the Upton school ethos.

To access this resource, please log-on to www.digitaltheatre.com with the following passwords and links:

Username: user.uptonhall

Password: rose@5431

We wish your daughter a happy summer of reading and look forward to hearing all about it in September.

Yours sincerely,

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B Seed

Mrs Bryony Seed
Head of English



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