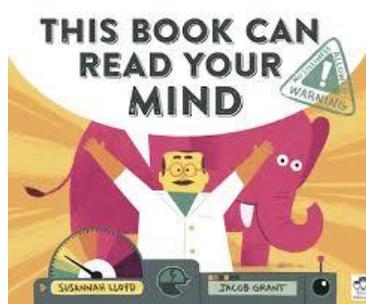


Welcome! Jasbinder Bilan's 'Asha and the Spirit Bird' is the winner of the children's category of the 2019 Costa Book Awards. Asha lives in the foothills of the Himalayas. Money is tight and she misses her papa who works in the city. When he suddenly stops sending his wages, a ruthless moneylender ransacks their home and her mother talks of leaving. From her den in the mango tree, Asha makes a pact with her best friend, Jeevan, to find her father and make things right. But the journey is dangerous: they must cross the world's highest mountains and face hunger, tiredness – and even snow leopards. Published: 7/2/19 and for age 9+.



'This Book Can Read Your Mind': This is a January book of the month on the Love Reading 4 Kids website. Written by Susannah Llyod and illustrated by Jacob Grant, it is suitable for age 3+. The book is based on the universal truth that as soon as somebody tells you not to think of something, you immediately do so. It is described as an irresistible laugh aloud story all about the power of books and the imagination. The book is stamped with a 'No Silliness Allowed' warning – but you can anticipate plenty of silliness despite the firm instructions from the very serious scientist. It was published on 7/1/20. I've ordered a copy – so please let me know if you'd like to have a look.



I included this back in July. David Keyte is a Y4 teacher from Crawley. David has developed a list of strategies that help children to become readers. The list is below. On his Twitter account, he talks about attending training with Teresa Cremin

(Professor of Education at the Open University and author of 'Building Communities of Engaged Readers'). On the course, Professor Cremin talked about the importance of 'comfy reading' as a means of encouraging reading for pleasure in the classroom. I think many of us allow children to bring cushions, use beanbags and sit comfortably when reading. If you'd like to have a look, I have a copy of Teresa Cremin's 'Building Communities of Engaged Readers'.

### Things I believe help children become 'readers'

1. Lots of excited adult talk about books.
2. Regularly share blurbs and extracts of books then place them in the book corner.
3. Comfy reading.
4. Time for class book every day. (Make this an event that children look forward to)
5. Time for independent reading every day.
6. Make authors 'real' through Twitter interactions etc.
7. Make reading 'cool'. (Pictures of celebrities reading etc)
8. Use recently released books in reading/guided reading lessons.
9. Create opportunities for children to share what they are reading with their classmates.

10. Never dissuade children from trying out a book they like the look of even if it may be too tricky for them. They will realise this themselves but don't put boundaries on what they are 'allowed' to read.

11. Walk around school with a book.  
12. Regularly ask children 'what are you reading?' when walking around school.

13. Create an excitement around your own book shelf at home and plant the idea of children growing their own collection.

14. Talk about the aesthetics of books. What does the cover feel like? What does a new book smell like?

15. Create bookmarks with your class and discuss the journeys that is it going to be going on.

Y5 & Y6 Book Club: Our Book Club children have



chosen Jenny McLachlan's 'The Land of Roar' as their book for this term. Book Club meetings take place every Thursday lunch time (from 12.00noon) in my classroom. Biscuits and hot chocolate included!

Please read aloud to the children each day. Happy Reading.....Paul (13/1/20)

(At home I'm reading 'Mistborn: The Final Empire' by Brandon Sanderson. In class I'm reading 'Boy Giant: Son of Gulliver' by Michael Morpurgo. I'm reading 'Demon Dentist' by David Walliams to 4PK.)