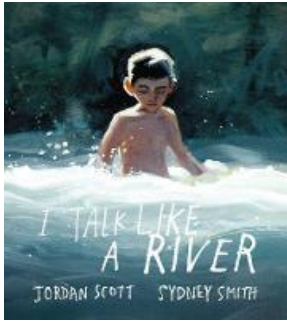


Welcome! The overall winner of the Costa Book of the Year 2020 is 'The Mermaid of Black Conch' by Monique Roffey. It was also the winner in the novel category. The first novel prize went to 'Love After Love' by Ingrid Persaud. Lee Lawrence's 'The Louder I Will Sing' won the biography award and the victor in the poetry category was Eavan Boland's 'The Historians'. Natasha Farrant's 'Voyage of the Sparrowhawk' triumphed in the children's category. I've read this and it's well worth checking out. It's a fab adventure story that sees two children and their teacher journey to France in the aftermath of World War One.

World Book Day 2021: As with so many things at the moment, this year's World Book Day will be a largely virtual event. The £1 books will still be a feature and children will be able to access the vouchers electronically. Contributing authors this year include: Katherine Rundell, Tom Fletcher, Sita Brahmachari, Joseph Coelho and Derek Landy.

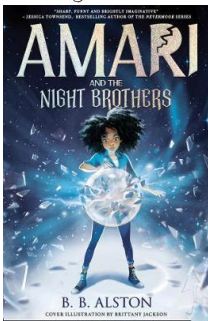
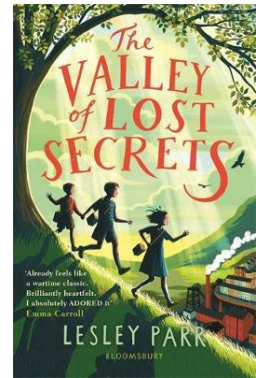




'I Talk Like a River': Written by Jordan Scott and with beautiful artwork by Kate Greenaway Medal winner Sydney Smith, 'I Talk Like a River' is a moving autobiographical account of how the author's father (and a river) helped Jordan with his stutter when he was a child. An inspiring interview with both author and illustrator can be found on

YouTube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=k16g9hUmlk The book was published on 7/1/21 and is suitable for all ages and is ideal to be read aloud and talked about.

'The Valley of Lost Secrets' by Lesley Parr: Published at the start of January and for age 9+, this is a January debut of the month on www.lovereading4kids.co.uk Set during World War Two, it tells the story of Jimmy - and his little brother Ronnie - who have been evacuated from London to a South Wales village. The village has its secrets - and the discovery of a set of bones leads Jimmy to solve a decades old mystery. A classic adventure story.



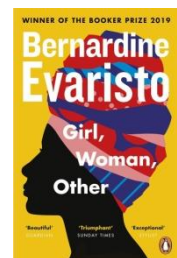
'Amari and the Night Brothers' by BB Alston: This is another debut of the month on www.lovereading4kids.co.uk It was published on 21/1/21 and is for age 7+. Amari attends a posh school on a scholarship. She finds it hard to fit in and to avoid the bullies. With her brother missing, a mysterious messenger delivers an invitation to attend an interview - and an imaginative, funny and

compelling adventure ensues, with lots of magic and mystery to boot!



Get Involved: If you have any recommendations, book news, photos, thoughts, comments or ideas, please get in touch. I've just finished reading

Bernardine Evaristo's amazing 2019 Booker Prize winner 'Girl, Woman, Other'. It is a stunningly brilliant novel and I can't recommend it highly enough. I almost wanted to turn back to the first page and read it all again!



Please read aloud to the children each day. Happy Reading.....Paul (1/2/21)

Paul Kynaston : Assistant Head Teacher : Reading Advocate : Malvern Primary School : Liverpool

At home I'm reading 'Red Comet: The Short Life and Blazing Art of Sylvia Plath' by Heather Clark and 'Ghost Town: A Liverpool Shadowplay' by Jeff Young.

In class I'm reading 'The Time of Green Magic' by Hilary McKay.

I'm reading 'Demon Dentist' by David Walliams to 4PK.