

Welcome Back! I hope you had an excellent summer and managed to fit in lots of reading for pleasure. On July 9<sup>th</sup>, Cressida Cowell (author of the 'How to Train Your Dragon' and 'The Wizards of Once' series of books) started her two year tenure as

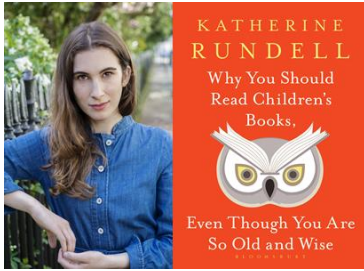
the 11<sup>th</sup> Waterstone's Children's Laureate. Previous Laureates have included Quentin Blake, Malorie Blackman, Michael Rosen and most recently, Lauren Child. Cressida Cowell has issued a 'to do list' in the form of a charter – to help promote children's access to books and to share the joy of reading, writing and imagination.

**CRESSIDA COWELL'S**  
**Waterstones**  
**Children's**  
**Laureate**  
**Charter**

Every child has the right to...

1. Read for the joy of it
2. Access NEW books in schools, libraries and bookshops
3. Have advice from a trained librarian or bookseller
4. Own their OWN book
5. See themselves reflected in a book
6. Be read aloud to
7. Have some choice in what they read
8. Be creative for at least fifteen minutes a week
9. See an author event at least ONCE
10. Have a planet to read on

Summer Reading: Over the summer, I've read (and can recommend): 'The Good Thieves' by Katherine Rundell, 'Erebus: The Story of a Ship' by Michael Palin, 'Revelation' by C.J.Sansom, 'The Subtle Knife' by Philip Pullman and 'Sweet Sorrow' by David Nicholls.



Katherine Rundell: Over the summer, the author of 'Rooftoppers' and 'The Good Thieves' published an essay on why adults should read children's books. She's preaching to the choir as far as I'm concerned – but even I found her arguments compelling and inspiring.

Here's a quote from the essay: *'I vastly prefer adulthood to childhood – I love voting and drinking and working. But there are times in adult life – at least, in mine – when the world has seemed blank and flat and without truth. It is in those moments that children's books, for me, do that which nothing else can. Children's books today do still have the ghost of their educative beginnings, but what they are trying to teach us has changed. Children's novels, to me, spoke, and still speak, of hope. They say: look, this is what bravery looks like. This is what generosity looks like. They tell me, through the medium of wizards, lions and talking spiders, that this world we live in is a world of people who tell jokes and work and endure. Children's books say: the world is huge. They say: hope counts for something. They say: bravery will matter, wit will matter, empathy will matter, love will matter. These things may or may not be true. I hope they are. I think it is urgently necessary to hear them and speak to them.'*



Celebrity Authors: From the composer of the excellent 'Paperback Writer' comes 'Hey Granddude!' – a hardback children's book. Granddude is a one-of-a-kind adventurer – a Mary Poppins for the modern day – who whisks his four grandkids off on whirlwind adventures. It's released on Thursday. Blue Peter's longest-serving female presenter has recently published 'Cookie and the Most Annoying Boy in the World'. Cookie is a bright, bold character who doesn't understand the world – but nevertheless leaps in with both feet – and so gets herself into trouble a little too often. Published: 8/8/19 and is for age 7+. Happy Reading.....Paul (2/9/19)

(At home I'm reading 'The Silence of the Girls' by Pat Barker. In class I'm reading 'The Longest Night of Charlie Noon' by Christopher Edge. I'm reading 'The Legend of Podkin One-Ear' by Kieran Larwood to my class.)