



Reflecting on *JustRead* in the Junior School

EMILY BASHAM
TEACHER LIBRARIAN

As we reflect on the year that was 2020, the extended periods of uncertainty, the number of milestone school events cancelled, and the many challenges placed on our Junior School girls, we have relied on one consistency. For ten minutes (K-2) or fifteen minutes (Years 3-6) each day, Junior School staff and students, stop, relax and *JustRead*.

Queenwood staff highly value this initiative and the opportunity it has provided to re-establish their own reading routine during and outside of school hours. Conversations in the staffroom regarding recent reads have become



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as popular as discussions about what to watch next on Netflix. For students, *JustRead* has not only created positive attitudes around reading, but has developed each girl's independence in self-selecting titles based on their personal interests. Through this empowering process, students have become more aware of what makes them 'tick' as they are exposed to new and exciting literature.

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Teachers have also observed significant improvements in self-efficacy for reading, particularly in the younger years where independent reading is quite a foreign concept. In order to learn to read, you need to love to read and with this initiative we are taking our girls a step closer towards this ideal.

Continuing *JustRead* in the Summer Holidays

As 2020 draws to an end, the summer holidays are beckoning us to relax, recharge and reflect on the tumultuous year we have faced. Parents will delight in the slower morning routine which will not require lunches to be prepared or library bags to be packed. While students (and parents) are deserving of a much needed break, we must not let the absence of teachers and classrooms allow the momentum of *JustRead* to slow.

The success of *JustRead* relies on the triangular approach between staff, parents, and students. Parents have been tremendously supportive of the initiative and this was particularly evident during remote learning. Students have excitedly recounted their daily routine at home, where all family members sit down together to read independently. This modelling of reading for pleasure as well as showing an interest in what your daughter is reading has been a fundamental aspect in positively supporting her reading habits.

The consistency of *JustRead* has changed our girls' perceptions around reading for pleasure. When questioned about the success of the program, their responses indicate an association between reading and relaxing. This is a profound revelation, highlighting the importance of continuing a sustained silent reading routine regardless of whether they are at school or not.

Remove distractions

In this digital age, it is not unusual to see children reaching for electronic devices before books. Monitoring and establishing boundaries around the use of technology at home will assist in removing possible barriers to reading. To steer children away from digital devices, a book is always a welcome companion; whether you are in the waiting room for the obligatory yearly check-up, embarking on a road trip or watching a sibling play sport.

Allow children to self-select texts

When you let children choose their own books, you are indicating that you trust them to make good choices about their reading. I encourage the girls to adopt 'The Goldilocks Rule' when selecting a book. It should be not too easy, not too difficult, but just right. By taking control of what they are reading, they are becoming more aware of their interests and this is empowering.

Visit local libraries

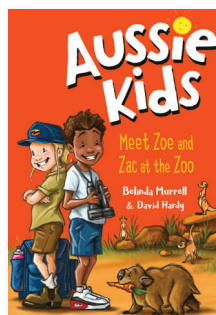
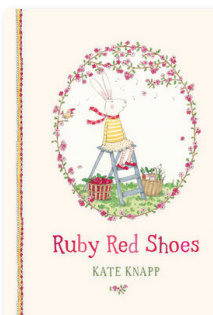
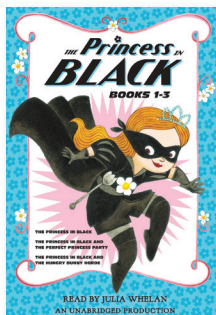
Families are strongly encouraged to visit municipal libraries to continue with a steady borrowing routine over the Christmas holidays. Make an outing out of visiting your local library and show an interest in what your daughters are perusing on the shelves. Take advantage of the Summer Reading Challenges and competitions that most libraries run.

Talk about books

Conversations about books allow children to reflect on what they have been reading, enhancing their enjoyment and understanding of texts. As you invite deeper and richer conversations about books, you are sending the message that reading is important. Through these conversations, we learn about children not just as readers, but as singular people with specific interests. ●

Miss Basham's Bookshelf

Our Junior School librarian shares her favourite books for students for the summer holidays.



Kindergarten

The Princess in Black series

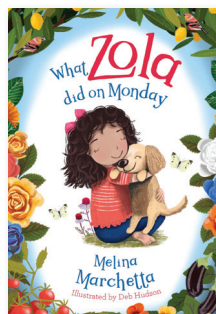
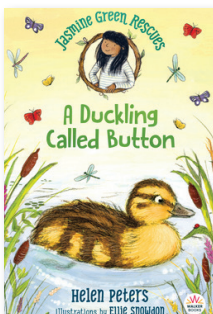
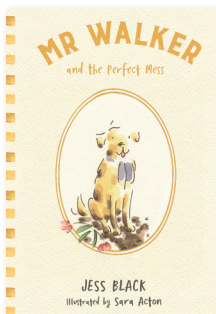
by Shannon Hale

Ruby Red Shoes

by Kate Knapp

Aussie Kids series

by various authors



Years 1 and Year 2

Mr Walker series

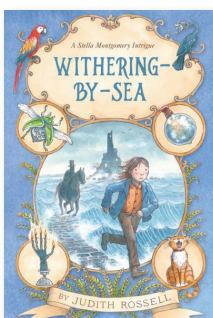
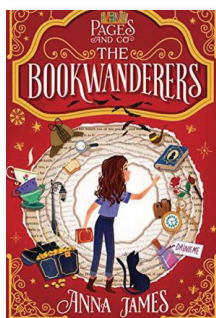
by Jess Black

Jasmine Green series

by Helen Peters

What Zola did on Monday series

by Melina Marchetta



Years 3 and 4

Tilly and the Book Wanderers

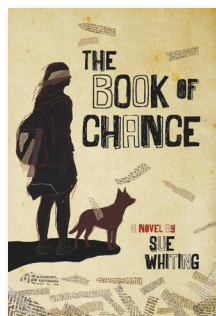
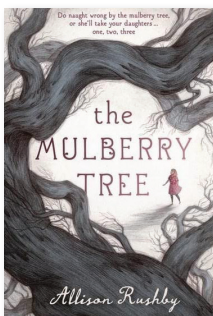
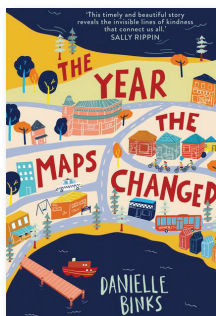
by Anna James

Withering by Sea

by Judith Rossell

The Little Wave

by Pip Harry



Years 5 and 6

The Year the Maps Changed

by Danielle Binks

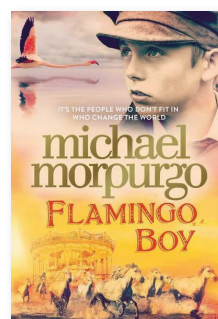
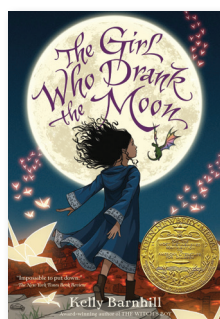
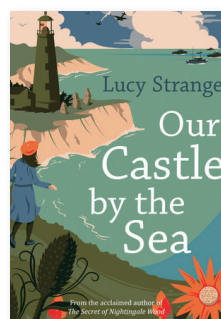
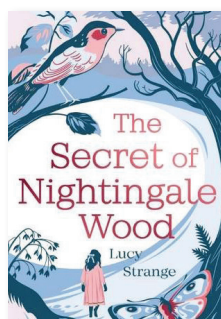
The Mulberry Tree

by Allison Rushby

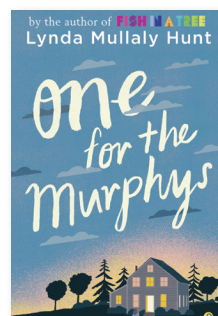
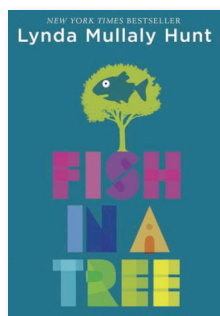
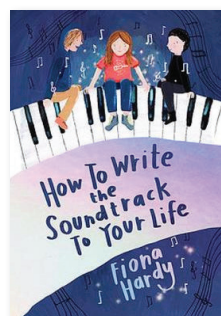
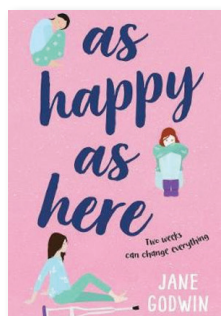
The Book of Chance

by Sue Whiting

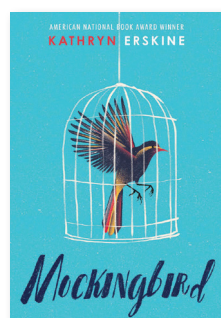
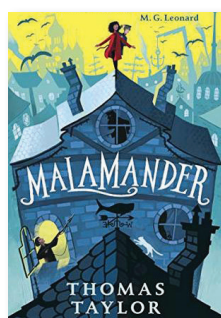
To introduce Year 7 2021 to JustRead, we sent every girl a book recommended by Miss Basham.



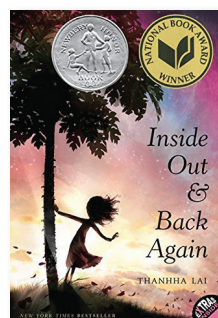
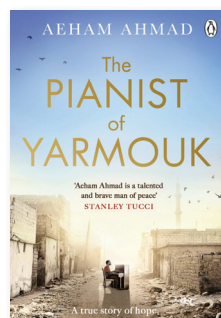
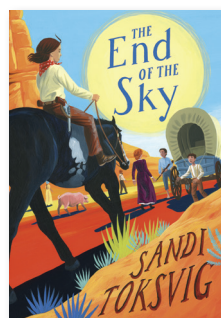
The Secret of Nightingale Wood
by Lucy Strange
Our Castle by the Sea
by Lucy Strange
The Girl Who Drank the Moon
by Kelly Barnhill
Flamingo Boy
by Michael Morpurgo



As Happy as Here
by Jane Godwin
How to Write the Soundtrack to your Life
by Fiona Hardy
Fish in a Tree
by Lynda Mullaly Hunt
One for the Murphys
by Lynda Mullaly Hunt



Malamander
by Thomas Taylor
Mockingbird
by Kathryn Erskine
A Slice of the Moon
by Sandi Toksvig
Echo Mountain
by Lauren Wolk



The End of the Sky
by Sandi Toksvig
The Pianist of Yarmouk
by Aeham Ahmad
The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind
by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer
Inside Out & Back Again
by Thanhha Lai