



## Penguin

<https://www.penguin.co.uk/articles/2021/GCSE-class-studying-malorie-blackman-boys-dont-cry.html>

It's the last day of school at Turing House comprehensive in Teddington, South London and a class of GCSE students are reflecting on a year together discussing topics ranging from racism and sexuality; gender politics to mental health.

"In society it's frowned upon for men to be able to show their emotions," says Missy, "but then in the book it talks about how it is OK, and men should be able to talk about their feelings."

The book in question – a 2010 novel by Malorie Blackman called 'Boys Don't Cry' – was introduced to the class by their English teacher Hayley, who wanted to find new ways to engage her students and enliven their group discussions.

"Lots of students aren't that excited about literature," she says of young people, who are all required to study English until at least the age of 16. "[But] the way they've responded so positively to 'Boys Don't Cry' goes to show that clearly they love reading a text that feels familiar to them, where they can see themselves."

Blackman's novel follows Dante, a teenage boy waiting for his A-level results in the post who instead finds an ex-girlfriend at his door holding a baby she says is his, potentially scuppering his dreams of going to university. You can see why, for young people today, it feels relevant and gripping in a way the more established classics can't match.

"We were taught 'Frankenstein', we were taught half a dozen Shakespeare plays, we were taught 'A Christmas Carol'," says Sam. "They're great books and plays, but they're all 80 years old at least."

"I've found it easier to contribute during class because I find it a lot more relatable, and I can give my thoughts and opinions," adds Sean.

The Turing House class of '21 are the exception. Research published this week by Penguin and The Runnymede Trust has revealed that less than 1% of GCSE students in England study a book by a writer of colour – and only 7% by a female author. This despite the fact that 34.4% of children in England are Black, Asian and minority ethnic.

### Dates for your Diary

- INSET day – 5th July 2021 (all year groups)
- Incoming Year 7 – Induction day – Hampton site - 5th July 2021
- Immunisations – Year 8 – HPV – 13<sup>th</sup> July
- Last day of term – 16<sup>th</sup> July

### Helpful Reminders

[E-Safety](#)

[Relationships and Sex Education](#)

[Careers](#)

From the perspectives of the students, this makes no sense at all:

Sean: "I just quite simply say: why?!"

Emily: "I'm grateful to my school for teaching me texts by different ethnicities. It helps me understand other people's views."

They're not alone. The research, part of the Lit in Colour campaign, revealed that 82% of young people in a nationwide survey could not recall ever studying a book by a Black, Asian or minority ethnic author, yet 70% felt the diversity of British society should be reflected in what they're being taught.



Watch the video above to see first-hand the impact that can be made by taking a more inclusive approach to the study of English Literature, and visit the Lit in Colour campaign page to find out more about how you can be involved.

### A student's perspective

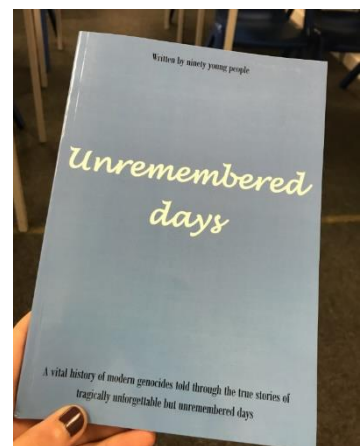
Recently, Penguin (the publishing firm) came into one of my last Year 11 lessons of the year, coming into ask us as a class our experiences and enjoyment in reading and studying the novel 'Boys Don't Cry' which was written by Malorie Blackman in 2010. This was the first year that the novel had been introduced as part of the curriculum for English Literature; the intriguing novel, written in the form of a dual narrative, focuses on the experiences of a family within society and the struggles they face surrounding prejudice and discrimination towards them. Personally, I thoroughly enjoyed the incredible style of writing within the novel and how it

tackles prejudice; it gave me and my classmates an insight into the discrimination many face within society and helped us to discuss these issues of prejudice and explore how they need to be tackled. The novel aims to tackle stereotypes that the characters are often associated with. Penguin's statement within their article that 'less than 1% of GCSE students in England study a book by a writer of colour – and only 7% by a female author... despite the fact that 34.4% of children in England are Black, Asian and minority ethnic,' shocked me. I was happy to read an incredible novel by Malorie Blackman and try to tackle this statistic, as we need to work together so there is more diversity within the publishing industry and that books published by authors from different ethnicities are more widely studied by students.

Tom, Y11

### Unremembered Days

Mariyah (Y7), Zara (Y7), Zac (Y9), Kaiden (Y9), Luke (Y10), Raisharnai (Y11) and Jack (Y12) have all had their work published in a book called 'Unremembered Days'. This is a new book written by young people to raise awareness of the Holocaust and other genocides. We are incredibly proud of their contributions. We would also like to thank Mr Lawrence at Hampton Boys School for organising the project and giving our students the opportunity to take part. You can read an online version of the book [here](#)



### West Indian Soldiers: National Army Museum

19 May - 31 October 2021 (FREE)

Discover the shared military heritage between the UK and the Caribbean in this special exhibition exploring the role of West Indian soldiers in the British Army.

This exhibition, delivered in partnership with the [West India Committee](#) and supported by the [National Lottery Heritage Fund](#), highlights the little-known military heritage shared between the UK and the Caribbean.

Find out more [here](#).



In other news, the National Army Museum is pleased to reveal the latest addition to their displays: a helicopter, newly installed in the Museum's Atrium. The Lynx, in a number of different variants, has been the British Army's main utility helicopter since 1979. This example, ZG921, has seen service in Iraq. Now you can take a close-up look from the Café.



### London Olympic Flame: Museum of London

Thomas Heatherwick's copper cauldron sculpture was created for the London Olympics in 2012 and is now available to view in the Museum of London gallery. See dramatic footage and exclusive testimonies recapturing the sculpture's journey from design to the climactic opening and closing ceremonies in the Olympic Stadium in east London. Find out more [here](#).



### Brentford FC – Post 16

A brand-new Female Post-16 Education programme!

The programme will allow participants to gain qualifications as well as train/play regularly with qualified football coaches. The girls have the opportunity to study A-Levels or a BTEC, including BTEC Level 3 Sport at a selection of colleges and schools: West Thames College, Chiswick High School, William Perkin School and Gumley High School. The training would take place twice a week with a dedicated day for matches; this would not affect their grassroots training and matches.

The trial is taking place at our state-of-the-art, fit-for-purpose facilities recently built at Gunnersbury Park Sport Hub, Popes Lane, W3 8LQ.

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> July

10am - 12pm

Registration

link:

<https://www.brentfordfcst.com/product/post-16-football-education-programme-july-female-trial-registration/>

We also run a successful Boys Post-16 programme which has a reputation for high standards in both academics and practically on the pitch. The Boys Post-16 programme currently has 4 teams competing towards the top of the EFL and the NYFL league as well



as maintaining the required academical level. Please see below the details.

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> July

1pm - 3pm

Gunnersbury Park Sports Hub, Popes Lane, W3 8LQ.

Registration link:

<https://www.brentfordfcst.com/product/post-16-football-education-programme-boys-july-trial-registration/>

### UK University & Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair - Wednesday 14th July 12-6pm

Over 95 exhibitors have now signed up to our incredible event including Oxford, Cambridge, Bristol, Kent, Birmingham, Bournemouth, Imperial, King's, Manchester, Nottingham, Brighton, Leicester and the National Apprenticeships Service. [Find out more and register here.](#)

See the email below or [here](#) which you can pass to interested students. Resources including poster, activity sheets, parent letter and social media images can be [downloaded here.](#)

### SAVE THE DATE - Meet the Russell Group Virtual Event - Wednesday 29th September 12-7pm

We are proud to announce that this autumn all 24 Russell Group Universities will once again be exhibiting at this fantastic online event, as well as presenting a host of vital webinars. Interested students, parents and teachers can find out more and [register here.](#)

### RET Creative Writing Competition

We are delighted to announce that Emilia (Year 7) has been awarded Highly Commended in the RET Creative Writing Competition on the theme of 'Change'. She has won some book tokens so she can keep up her reading and writing, and her piece of writing will be published in our very own anthology of writing on 'Change'. Well done, Emilia! Below is her wonderful entry.

It began as a whispering in the air. The day had been sensed with an unpleasant aroma of isolation. Above, the clouds darkened into gravel-grey anvils that blocked out the sun's warm rays. My yellow wellies squeaked under the concrete. In the cracks of the paving slabs was flora; seeping through the rock were dandelions, grass and moss. I spied a murky brown river twisting under an ancient moss-climbing bridge. Blue surgical masks littered the river carelessly, propelled by negligent humans. Black liquid swirled inside my head crashing large tsunamis on the sides. I suddenly jolted up, remembering what the weary prime minister said, what this vicious virus can do.

A small girl, aged five, scooted across the pavement; her bright pink wheels splashed in the rain-soaked puddles. Her ginger locks surrounded her flashy emerald eyes as she confidently stirred the three wheeled transport. A bright pink face-mask dotted with unicorns covered her mouth and nose; she wore a rose-coloured ruffled dress matched with a pastel purple parka coat. "Hurry up mama, I'll be late for school," she joyfully called out, as a distressed guardian ran behind her, glancing and giving the girl a slow-down-I'm-out-of-breath look. Like her daughter, she also wore a face mask, but instead it was plasma-blue decorated with small multicoloured flowers.

Welcomed by a sound of warm laughter and a horrible odour of sanitiser, the girl viewed the mid-60s authentic brick building, squished next to a line of semi-detached houses. A tarnished leather shoe landed firmly on the gravel, sending bits of beige rock flying in the air. "Daisy...you...forgot....bag!" her mother uttered wearily after passing a small floral rucksack to the hands of the five-year-old. As happy as a unicorn, the girl skipped towards an iron gate about six feet tall and carved with twisted metal.

As most parents do, Daisy's guardian rummaged inside a cotton carrier bag and pulled out a rectangular device - you can classify this as a phone. Her fingers stabbed on the worn out screen, making an irritating tapping

sound, her eyes scanned through messages, new posts, anything. Yet, the screen showed nothing more than the repeating news about the disease, coronavirus. Above, the clouds leapt like a stampede of galloping grey horses, until a tinkle of the first pearls of rain sprinkled the gravel. Charcoaled clouds started to spit droplets of water, a musical chime cloaked the air and aqua spheres clanged on cars. Even though the clouds still spat their droplets in agony, the mother felt the sun still shining its rays, realising she would have those precious six hours for herself. A puff of relief escaped her mouth.

'How would the 6 hours be spent?' pondered the curious mother. Discovering a pleasant smell of freshly-baked cookies, the lady disintegrated from reality and into a heaven of her own. She imagined being sprawled on the sofa demolishing a bowl of sugar-coated candies and watching the most cheesy of programs ever made, so bad that no one else likes them. Then, she visualised swimming in a pool of wine, the alcohol gently splashing on her feet; having a facial so she'd recover her youthfulness lost from the home-schooling stress. 'No, that can't be true!' she shook her head in disbelief. The woman was back to reality. A familiar house faced her view- it was a bungalow in bright-blue, its first blossoms seeped through the flower beds; wooden racks provided support for the wilting roses. "Home sweet home," mumbled the now-delighted mother.

As we approach the end of term, we are very excited to launch our Summer Reading Challenge for all students. All you need to do is choose the race you want to compete in!

Will you try out the triathlon?

Challenge yourself with the pentathlon?

Push yourself to complete the decathlon?

Will you take on the mighty marathon?

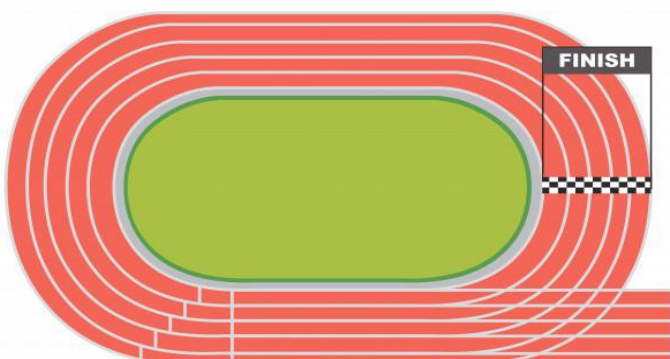
This week an announcement went out via Class Charts to all students and parents/guardians with each challenge attached.

Students can print a copy of the challenge at home or collect a copy of the sheet from their English teacher.

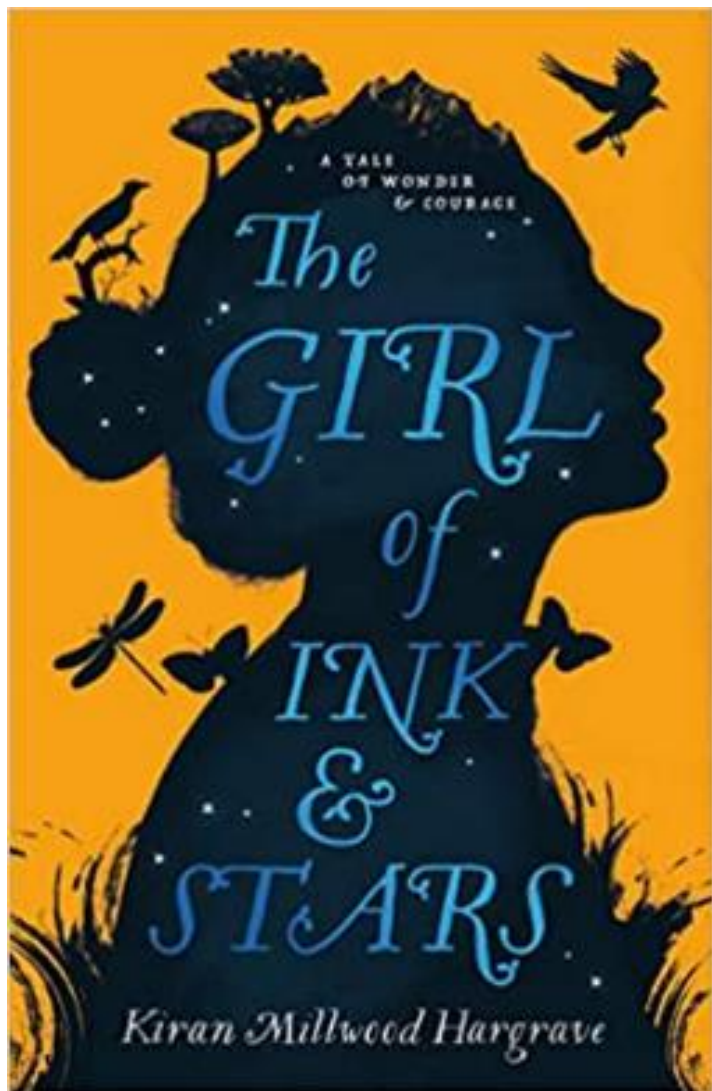
In September, students need to bring in their completed sheet with signatures for each task and hand it in to their English teacher. All completed sheets for each race will be entered into a prize draw!



## Summer Reading Challenge: The Great Reading Race!



## Book of the Week



Forbidden to leave her island, Isabella dreams of the faraway lands her cartographer father once mapped. When her friend disappears, she volunteers to guide the search. The world beyond the walls is a monster-filled wasteland - and beneath the dry rivers and smoking mountains, a fire demon is stirring from its sleep. Soon, following her map, her heart and an ancient myth, Isabella discovers the true end of her journey: to save the island itself.

'The Girls of Ink & Stars' by Kiran Milwood Hargrave

## Optima TriStars Triathlon Club

Optima TriStars Triathlon Club in Richmond has returned to training after lockdown with a flourish and continues to expand. They are always looking for new members and will continue to run sessions over the summer period. Visit

<http://www.optimaracingteam.com/> or email [optimaracingteammembership@gmail.com](mailto:optimaracingteammembership@gmail.com) to find out more.

## Sporting Headline of the Week

England's European Championship campaign exploded into life with a historic 2-0 victory over Germany at a raucous Wembley. Forward Raheem Sterling took his tally to three in four games by slotting in the opening goal and Harry Kane finally got off the mark with a second late on. The Three Lions picked up their first win over rivals Germany at a major tournament for the first time since 1966.

## Sporting Fact of the Week

Did you know.....?

Wimbledon is the oldest tennis tournament in the world, held each year since 1877 at the All England Club in London.

## Spotted a young person with untapped IT potential?

Places on this summer's FREE CyberFirst courses are now limited, with mainly girls' places available. Students need an interest and aptitude for computers, but don't need to be studying computer science or to have previously been on a CyberFirst course.

If you know a teen with potential in Years 10 – 12 (S4 – S6 / Yrs 11 – 13 NI), encourage them to apply now.

Sign up here:

<https://www.smallpeicetrust.org.uk/cyberfirst>



## On this week on Chemistry



**June 30<sup>th</sup> - On This Day:** Sir Humphry Davy announced the discovery of magnesium (Mg). He also announced calcium (Ca), strontium (Sr) and barium (Ba) on this day in 1808. Throughout his career Davy isolated several metal elements from their compounds through the process of electrolysis, using a primitive electrical battery called a voltaic pile. Did you know that magnesium is a key component in chlorophyll, the pigment important for photosynthesis in plants? Magnesium burns in air with a bright white light, giving it uses in sparklers, flares and fireworks. Magnesium salts, such as Epsom salt (magnesium sulphate) are also used in bath salts to help soothe sore muscles.

Calcium is essential to all living things, particularly for the growth of healthy teeth and bones. Calcium phosphate is the main component of bone. Did you know that the average human contains about 1 kilogram of calcium? Calcium compounds are widely used. There are vast deposits of limestone (calcium carbonate) used directly as a building stone and indirectly for cement.



Barium is not an extensively used element. Most is used in drilling fluids for oil and gas wells. It is also used in paint and in glassmaking. All barium compounds are toxic; however, barium sulphate is insoluble and so can be safely swallowed. A suspension of barium sulphate is sometimes given to patients suffering from digestive disorders. This is a 'barium meal' or 'barium enema'. Barium is a heavy element and scatters X-rays, so as it passes through the body the stomach and intestines can be distinguished on an X-ray.

**BARIUM SULFATE (BaSO<sub>4</sub>) & X-Rays**

The image displays a pile of white powder, the chemical structure of barium sulfate ( $\text{Ba}^{2+}$  and  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ), and two X-ray images of a human torso showing the digestive system.

**July 3<sup>rd</sup> - On This Day:** Antoine-Jerome Balard announced the discovery of bromine (Br) on this day in 1826. The French chemist was an unknown young

laboratory assistant when he discovered the element in seawater, which is a liquid at room temperature. This was independent to Carl Jacob Löwig's preparation of bromine one year earlier. The word bromine comes from the Greek word bromos, meaning "stench" as it has a distinctive, sharp smell. Bromine is present in small amounts, as bromide, in all living things. However, it has no known biological role in humans. Bromine has an irritating effect on the eyes and throat, and produces painful sores when in contact with the skin. Bromine is used in many areas such as agricultural chemicals, dyestuffs, insecticides, pharmaceuticals and chemical intermediates. Did you know that Bromine compounds have been used in the past as flame retardants. They were added to furniture foam, plastic casings for electronics and textiles to make them less flammable. However, due to its toxicity the use of Bromine as a flame retardant has been phased out.

Interested to know more about the elements? Listen to/watch these podcasts/videos from Chemistry world/University of Nottingham.

[Magnesium](#)

[Calcium](#)

[Barium](#)

[Bromine](#)

**#35**

**BROMINE**  
**Br**  
35 79.904

FLAME RETARDANT	LIQUID	DYE
Brominated flame retardants are found in electronics, plastics, clothes, and upholstery.	Bromine is one of only two elements to be a liquid at room temperature (25°C). The other is mercury.	Bromine is in the dye, Tyrian purple, once mainly used by royalty due to the cost of extracting it from sea snails.

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*This week's chemistry joke*

WHAT IS THE MOST  
LOYAL ELEMENT?

Br

BROmine

## Speakers for Schools

Tuesday 6th July 10-11am

Predict '21 Campaign

Ann Cairns, Exec Vice Chair, Mastercard

What is 5G and what does it mean for the future of our planet? What are some of the exciting new developments in AI? Ann will be answering our questions during our Predict '21 Broadcast and will be addressing some of the misconceptions that we may have about careers in technology.

To register for this event, please email [charlotte.stringfellow@speakersforschools.org](mailto:charlotte.stringfellow@speakersforschools.org) and you will be sent the link to join.

Wed 7th July 2-3pm

Panel event with Into Film, The Rough Assembly and the UK Post Sound Collective. Steve Little: Supervising Sound Editor, Rachael Tate: Supervising Dialogue & ADR Editor, Chad Raymond: Sound Designer & Sound FX Editor, Rebecca Heathcote: Foley Editor and Jo Jackson: Assistant Sound Editor

Join us for a broadcast in partnership with Into Film, The Rough Assembly and the UK Post Sound Collective.



We will be speaking to our panel about their experiences of working in Post-Production sound in the film & TV industry and the importance of the soundtrack in engaging the audience and telling the story. This is a great opportunity to learn about the variety of different careers and roles involved in this exciting area of work!

To register for this broadcast, please fill out this form:

<https://bit.ly/3g!PI67>

Ongoing Competition!

We also want to make you aware of an incredible opportunity for your 15–18-year-old students to be published to a global readership. We are bringing you this opportunity along with The Property Chronicle (a global property magazine) and The Academy of Real Assets (a network of Property professionals).

What do your students need to do? Simply write 800 words starting with “The town of the future will.....” It can be an essay, short story, poem or some other format.

What are the prizes? All prize-winning entries (up to 50) will be published in a book sent to over 2,000 UK schools plus leading employers in the Property world. Some of the winners will also be published by The Property Chronicle to its over 3 million social media followers.

How to enter? There is no cost to enter and each school can enter as many students as it wants. Just register at The Academy website [www.acadrealassets.com](http://www.acadrealassets.com)

Please note you will be signing up to a third party and will have to agree to their Ts & Cs.

What is the timetable? We will tell you again about the competition at the start of next academic year and then again towards the end of next term. You can send in your entries from the beginning of next term right up to the end of 2021.