

BOOK WEEK.

Essential English online with JCA – students shared their screens and presented their ‘fave’ books.

Books help children and adults to open up, to move beyond self-absorption and connect to other people.

Books show us the inner workings of multiple perspectives and let us know there is more than one way to view the world. We can travel to faraway lands, to the past or future, through the experiences of others.

Books build connections and broaden our capacity to empathise; they help us to understand others.

Responses:

It was such a fun class to see what everyone has been reading. Everybody's book reflected a bit about their personalities, so I loved learning more about other people.

Nicholas Pyle

I loved watching other people present their favourite books. It helps you get to know what they like. I found a lot of new books I want to read, that I never thought I would ever read. **Jamie Boscarior**

I really enjoyed listening to other people talk during the session and seeing what type of books they liked at why they liked that book. **Santiago Mattocks-Troy**

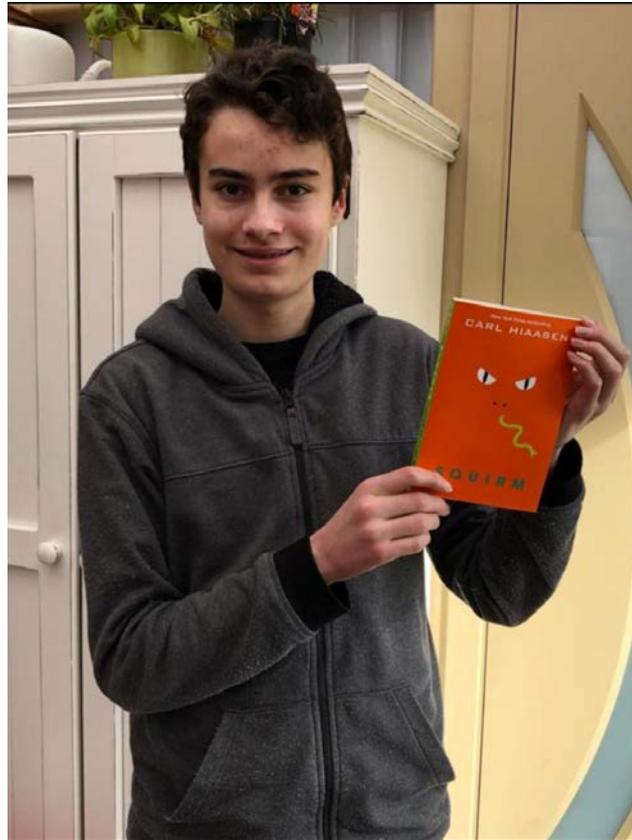
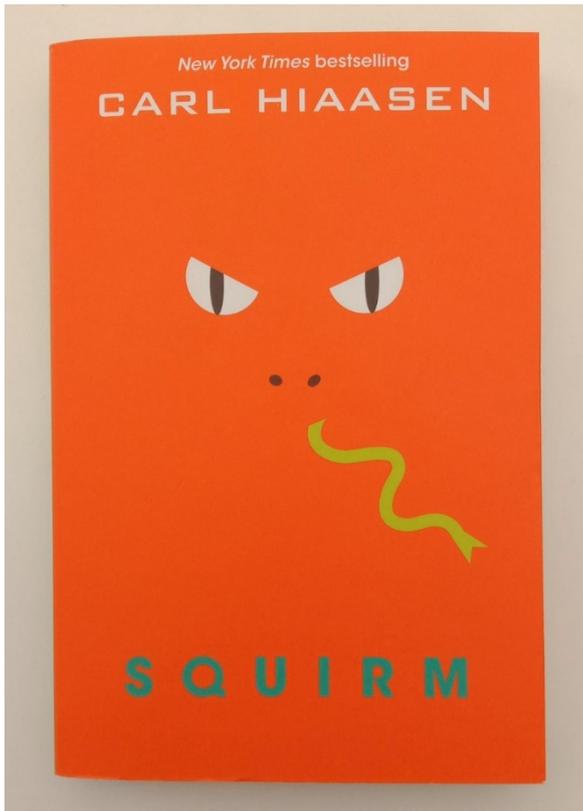
I enjoyed that every student in the class shared their personalities through the book of their choice. One of my classmates, Jane, shared a comic, and her presentation made me purchase her chosen book – **Scarlett Rose**

This was a fabulous and positive class; being online and celebrating Book Week was delightful, the students were engaging and enthusiastic sharing their favourite books, their presentations were inspiring and uplifting. It was great to see them express themselves and enjoy sharing stories with us and live in the moment.



What great students we have “Well Done to all” **Anita Petridis (Integration)**





Squirm is a book that I read earlier this year. I found it very intriguing – it was the perfect balance of adventure, fact and mystery. I bought this book while on holiday in Kyneton.

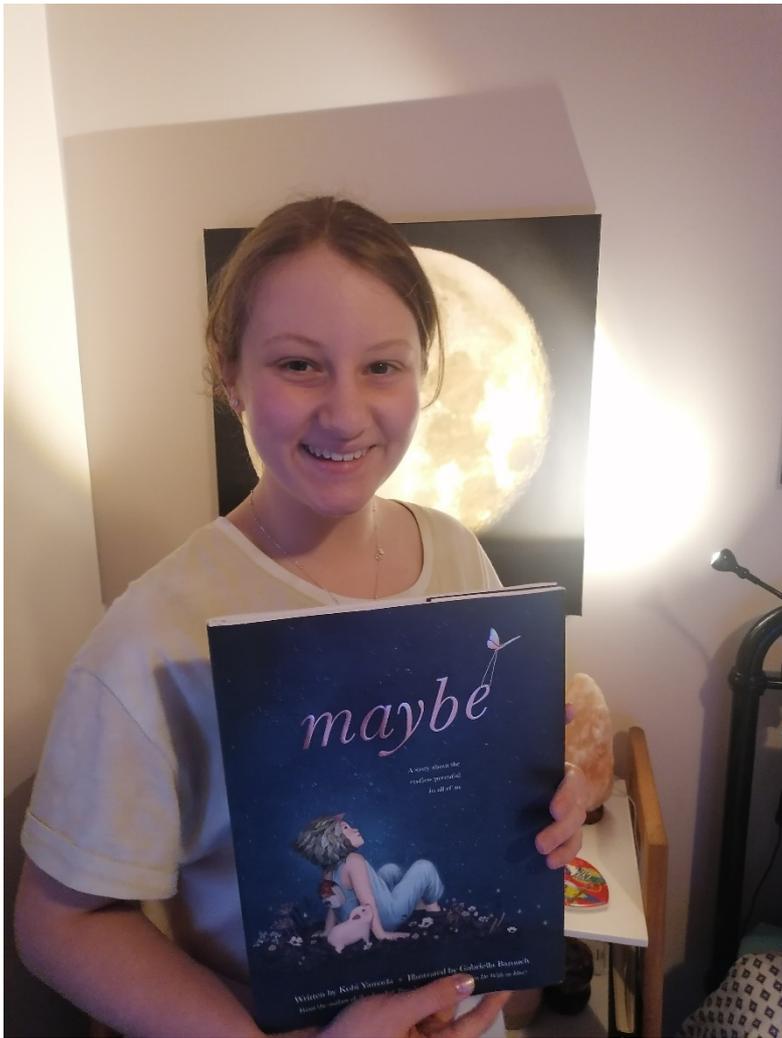
It is about a boy whose parents are divorced. He lives with his mother and older sister but wants to meet his father. He tracks his dad down by stealing an envelope from the cheque that his father sends.

He meets his father's new family but finds out that his dad has run off on a 'secret mission'.

It was such a fun class to see what everyone has been reading. Everybody's book reflected a bit about their personalities, so I loved learning more about other people.

- **Nicholas P**

**Amazing that you chose this book because you loved the cover and the beginning of the book Nicholas – you described the opening as a real hook for you.
An excellent presentation.**



Pictured – Scarlett Rose – ‘I chose ‘Maybe’, it’s a picture book that I got for Christmas 2020 from my Grandparents.

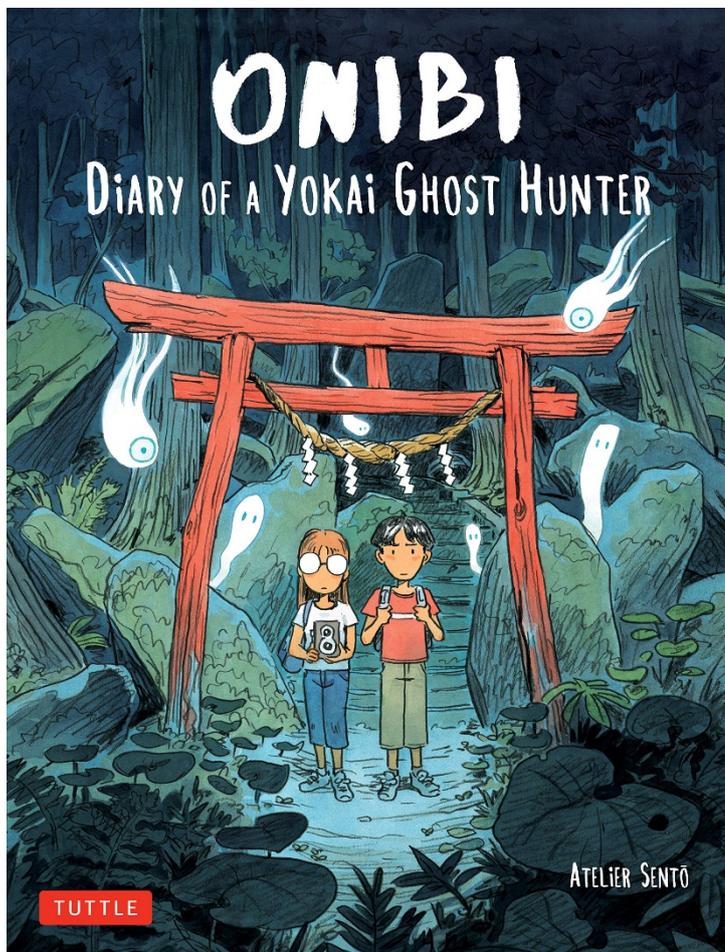
At that time, I was having trouble believing in myself. I was given this book mainly because of my music to remind myself that I can do anything in the world - I just have to put my mind to it. This is a beautiful story of a girl dreaming of her goals and her future.

Scarlett presented so well to the class and read a few sections.

This was amazing Scarlett and I definitely will buy it for my granddaughter.

‘Do everything with love. Follow your heart and see where it leads you’.





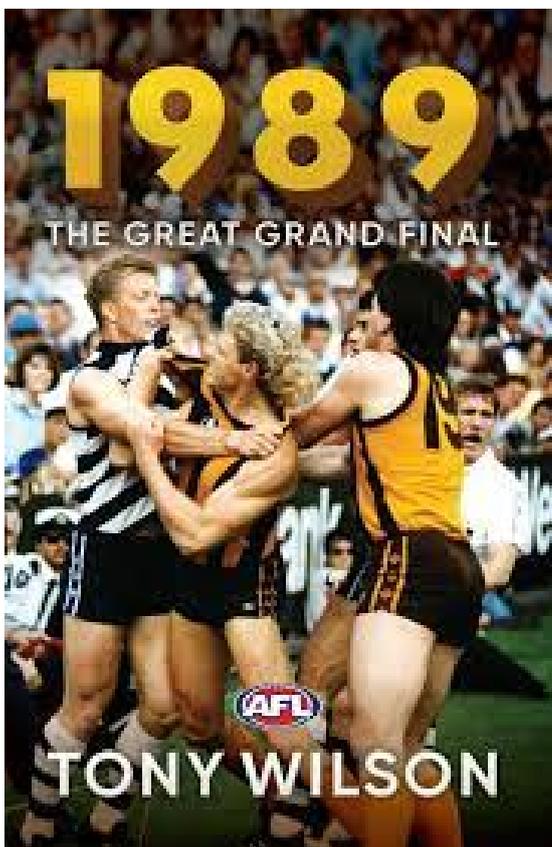
Jane Xu - *I like this book because I enjoy comic books about Ghosts and Mystery. I found this book in Bangkok in a bookstore.*



Jane chose a graphic novel and she loves drawing – she created a graphic narrative for the hero's journey.

What a clever person you are Jane!

Thank you for presenting this to the class.



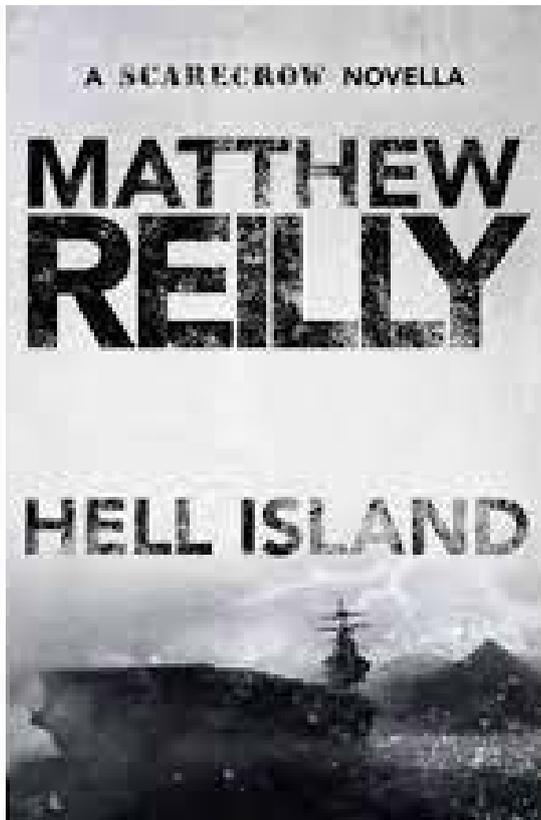
Ben Horskins - *My favourite book that I have ever read is 1989 (the great grand final) by Tony Wilson. It's about the 1989 Grand final between Hawthorn and Geelong. Its known as the best grand final that's ever been played.*

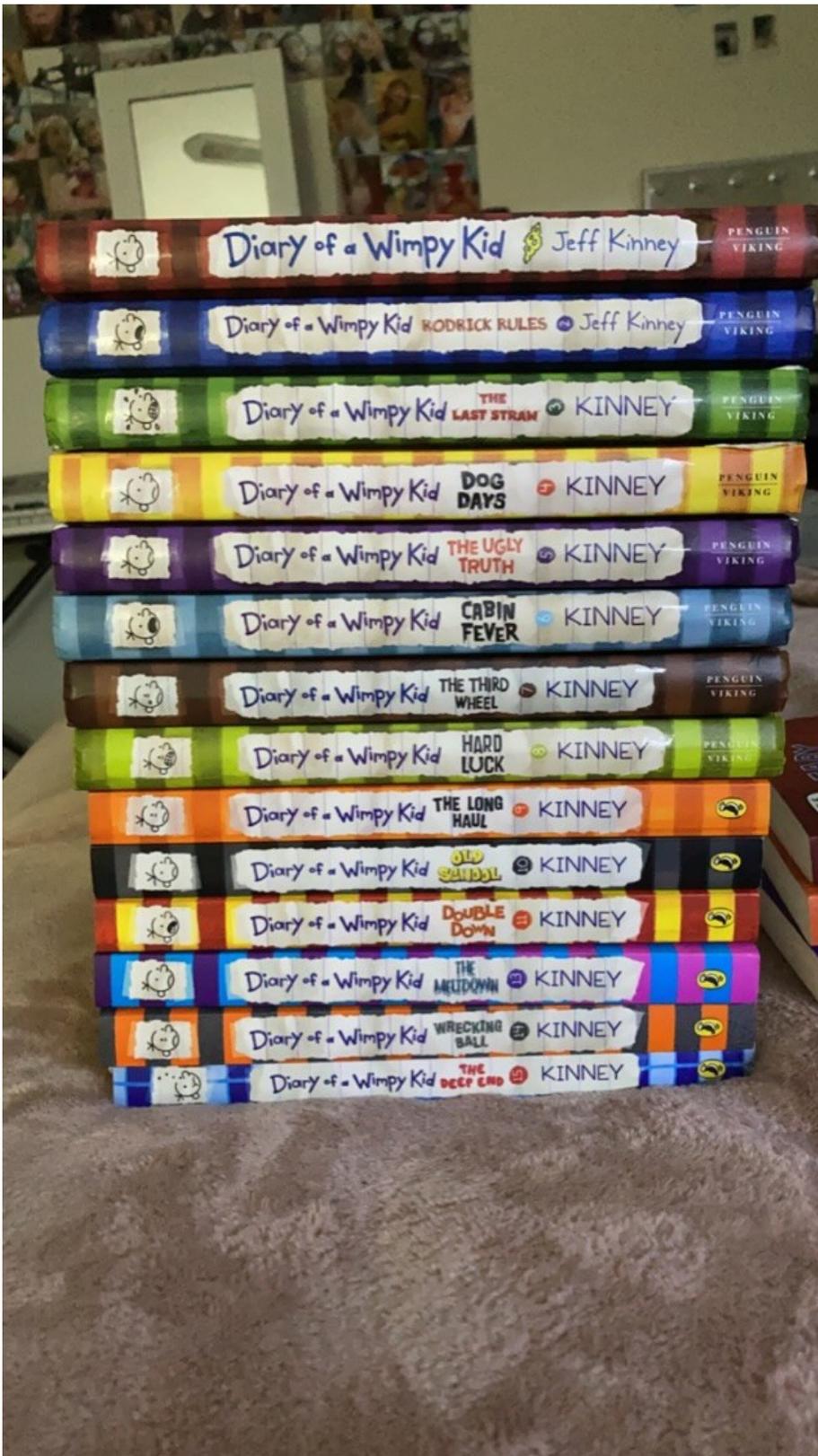
Thanks Ben – this book looks great for football fans. Great choice!

And next, Jake's wonderful choice – we all love a good action novel and Reilly is one of the best!

Jake Farrance chose Hell Island, written by Mathew Reilly - *I like this book because it has*

endless action. This is one of the only books I have actually enjoyed reading, it has a very interesting story line of a group of special forces soldiers that have a mission to go to "Hell Island" There was animal testing and then they escaped all over the island It builds up suspense and you feel as if you are almost actually there!





Jamie Boscarol - *I don't like reading so I was really happy that I could find books that I enjoy. I love how I could relate to the books and get an image in my head and how all the memories would come back to me.*

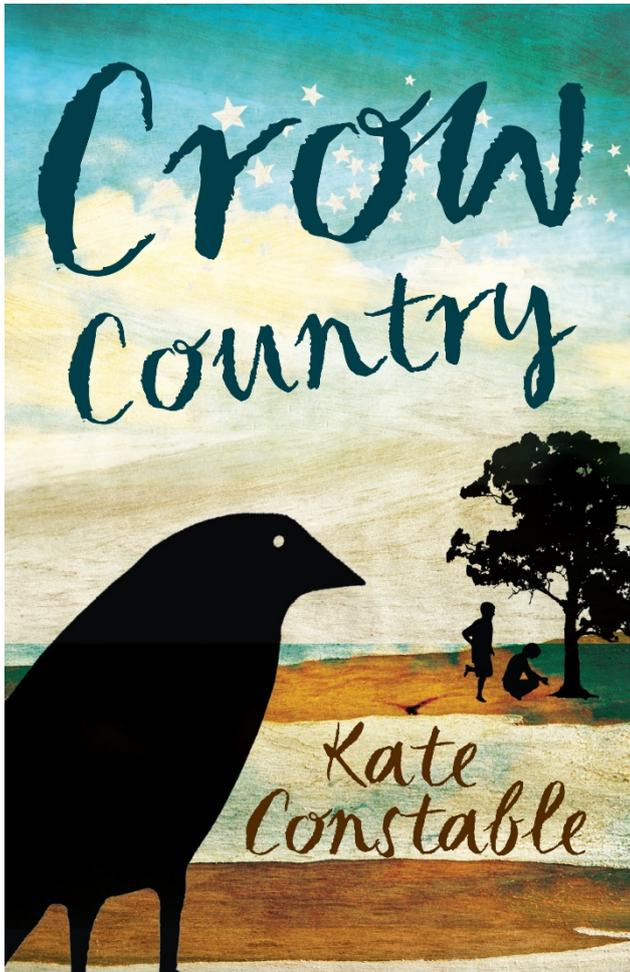
I love these books because I feel like I can relate to them with the crazy family, annoying siblings, the first day of school and being the middle child.

My favourite book is 'The Getaway' because it's when they go on a holiday and don't get along and there's so much drama and everything goes wrong. It's fun!

Great choice Jamie! A lot of fun to read – books are wonderful when you find the right ones.

Eliot Lastrager - *Crow Country* follows the story of Sadie when she moves back to Boort with her mother who grew up there. Everything is so different to the city.

Things get weird when Sadie's mum reunites with a past boyfriend, David. Sadie starts to connect with a few kids in town including David's nephew Walter. More than that, Sadie discovers that she can talk to crows, who appear throughout the story as messengers who know the secrets of the past.



The novel uses a literary device known as a 'time slip', in this way, Sadie is transported back to the 1930s where she witnesses a crime committed by her ancestors. The crows encourage her to find out the truth.

The time slip device puts the reader in the position of Sadie and also her Mum, so there are multiple voices being heard as Sadie tries to make sense of it all.

There is a lot of aboriginal culture in the book. Walter is indigenous and the ever-present crows represent the dreamtime spirit of 'Wah'.

At the start Sadie is resistant to making friends but as she starts to meet other people her perspective on the town changes. Her respect for the townspeople grows and she feels more belonging, connected to the land and realising her Mum had good intentions in bringing them back.

I would highly recommend this book to anyone who likes murder mysteries, and stories of the Australian bush. This book won the Children's Book of the Year Award in 2012.

Wow Elliot – such a great book to choose – thank you for your detailed and thoughtful discussion!



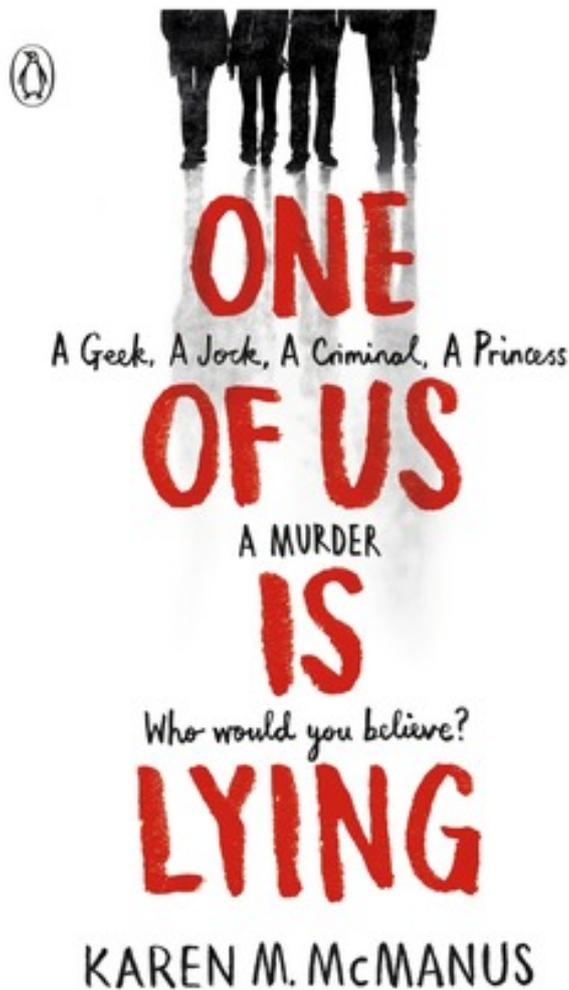
Joel Dickson - My book is the 'Bad Guys' by Aaron Blabey.

I used to love reading this book all the time because they would make me laugh even sometimes i would cry because it was that funny! Aaron Blabey is a good illustrator and

author.

He still makes good books to this day for little people that like his books. I would give this a solid 10/10 and if you have a little sis or little bro that has not read these books I recommend them.

What a great recommendation Joel – such a cool cover too!



Katie Hudson '*One of Us is Lying*', is a book about the murder of Simon, a drama and gossip king who even had his own app doing things like outing someone or saying who has cheated on their partners.

I really love this book as I never really could get into reading because I would always get distracted and then I couldn't finish a book for months.

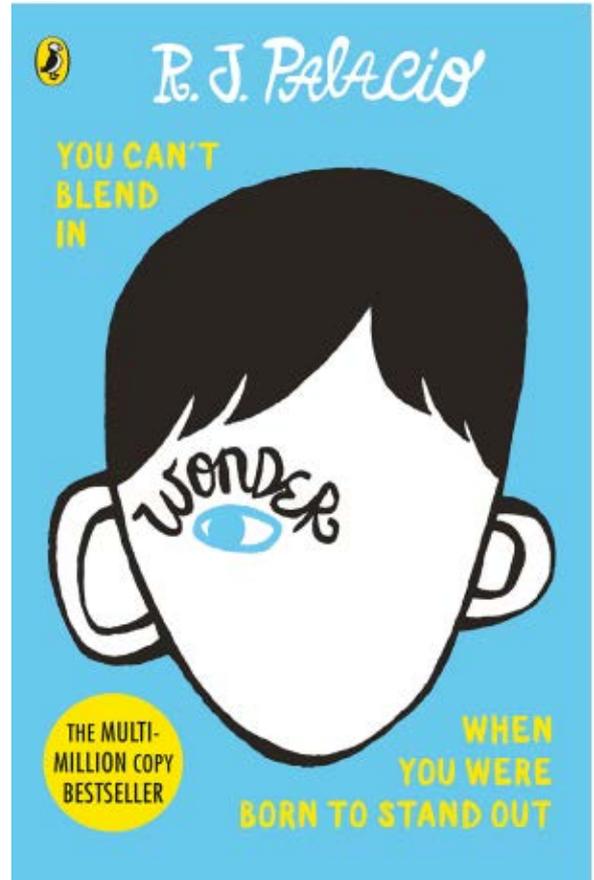
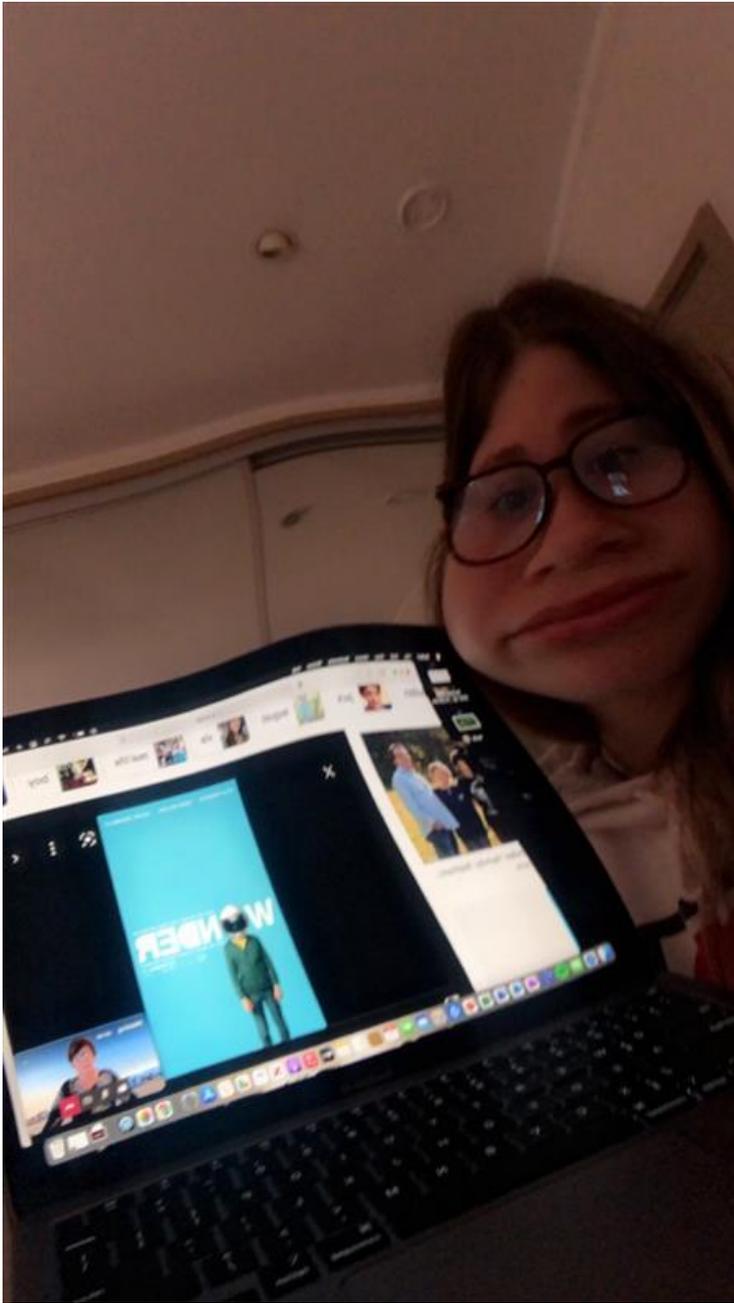
One day I got this book from my teacher who knew I would like it. it

had twists and turns with a major shock at the end that changed everything!

This helped me to never put it down and I finished it in 3 days!

How wonderful Katie – what a great teacher you had who knew you would love this book.

I wonder if the author has written others like this that you would also enjoy?



Estelle Kardaras - *'Wonder' is an amazing book for kids both young and old. It teaches you great life lessons and is really good to learn about perspective. It's so good to teach kids to not judge a book by its' cover..*

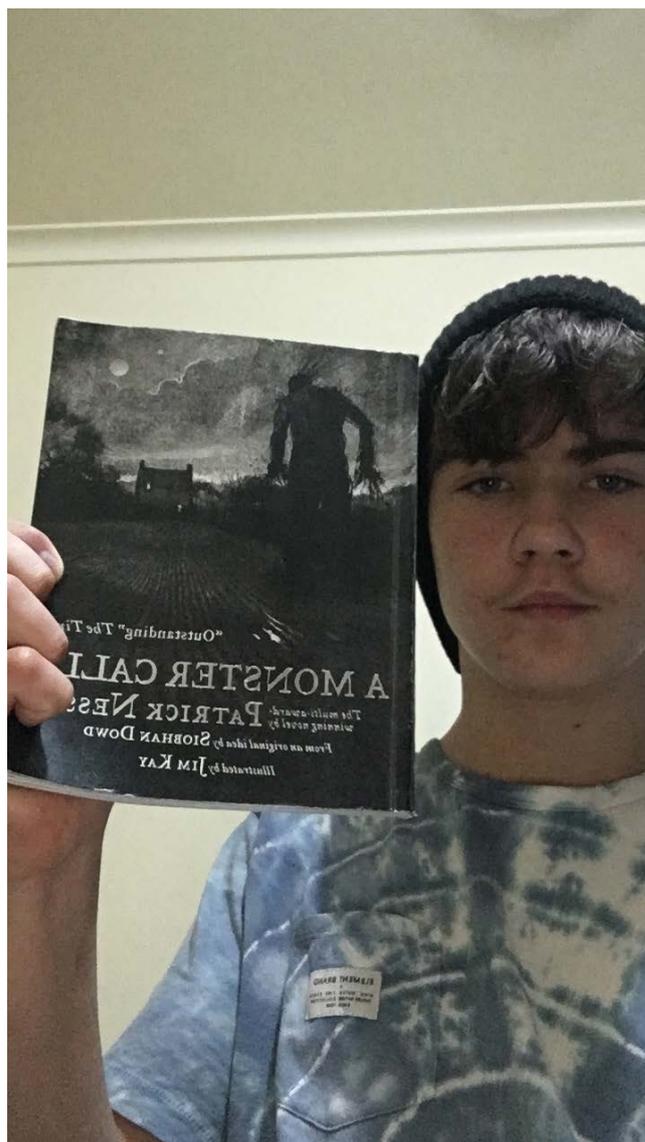
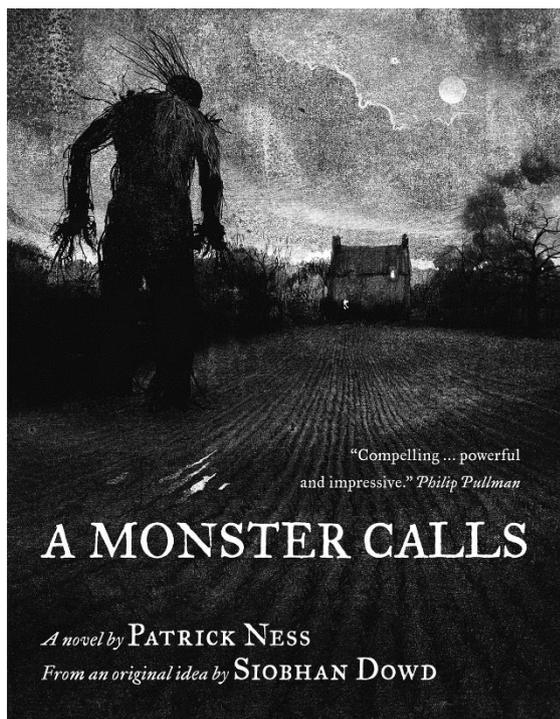
Ordinary

I KNOW I'M not an ordinary ten-year-old kid. I mean, sure, I do ordinary things. I eat ice cream. I ride my bike. I play ball. I have an Xbox. Stuff like that makes me ordinary. I guess. And I feel ordinary. Inside. But I know ordinary kids don't make other ordinary kids run away screaming in playgrounds. I know ordinary kids don't get stared at wherever they go.

If I found a magic lamp and I could have one wish, I would wish that I had a normal face that

no one ever noticed at all.

**Great presentation Estelle –
love your photo of the computer screen and you!**



Cael De Klerk - Book: A Monster Calls

Author: Patrick Ness

I like this book because it is a story about a kid named Connor O'Malley who lives alone with his mum who has an illness. She is always on medication and her condition is always changing. This makes Connor feel as if he is trapped and every night at 12:07 a monster made of wood and leaves comes to visit him to tell him 3 tales. After, he must tell the monster the fourth tale.

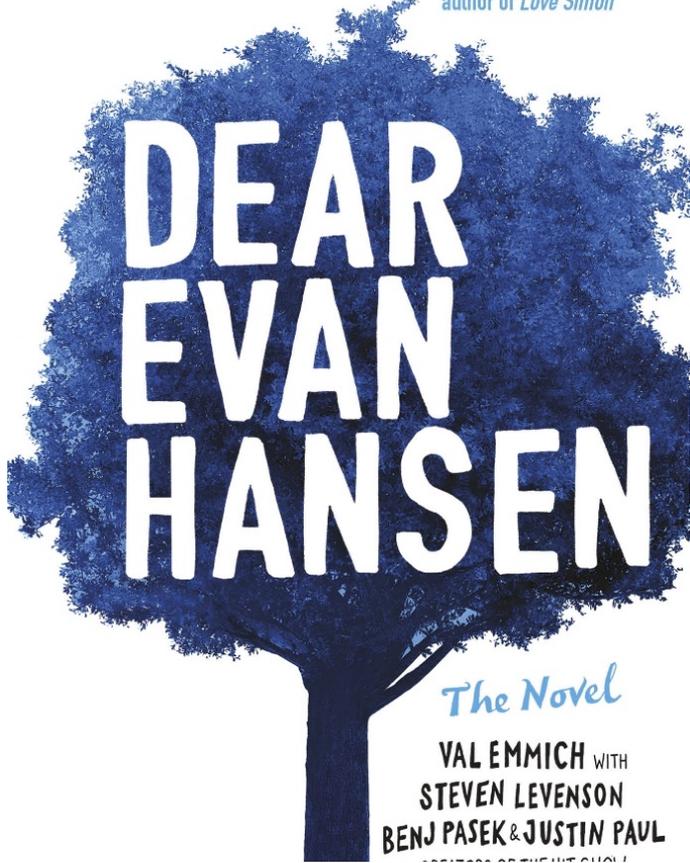
*I love this book because the author described the emotions of Connor and what he is thinking during the whole process and the illustrations are done really well. The story also explains what his bully's character is like.
I rate this book 8/10 for being so great!*

Great choice Cael – love your reasons for choosing this book!

Elsie McInerney - Dear Evan Hansen - *I chose this book because I loved it and I really understood how the main character felt.*



'FOR ANYONE WHO'S EVER
NEEDED TO BE FOUND' Becky Albertali,
author of *Love Simon*



DEAR EVAN HANSEN

The me I am is not the me I was. Just like the me I am is not the me I will be. Those versions of myself I can't change or predict. I'm not even sure I have much influence over the present me. But it's all I've got. I probably shouldn't fight it.

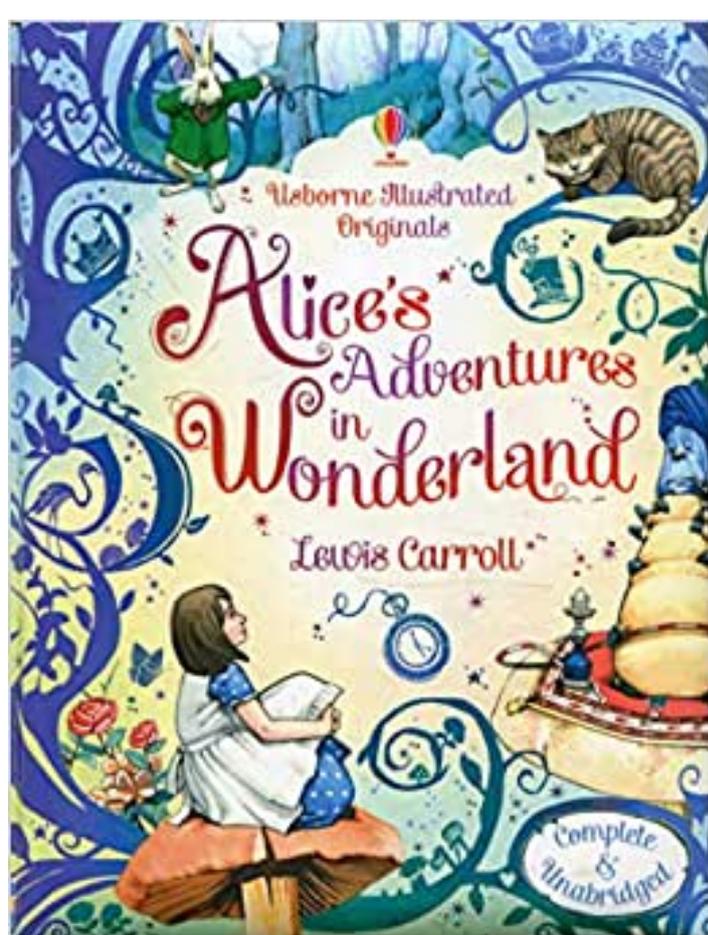
It reminds me of that saying: "The apple doesn't fall far from the tree." I guess that means we're just products of whoever made us and we don't have much control. The thing is, when people use that phrase, they ignore the most critical part: the falling. Within the logic of that saying, the apple falls every single time. *Not* falling isn't an option. So, if the apple *has* to fall, the most important question in my mind is what happens to it upon hitting the ground? Does it touch down with barely a scratch? Or does it smash on impact? Two vastly different fates. When you think about it, who cares about its proximity to the tree or what type of tree spawned it? What really makes all the difference, then, is how we land.

Elsie presented her chosen book with feeling and energy – this made everyone feel inspired by her reading journey. Well done Elsie, you show a lot of compassion.

Anika Wright

I chose Alice in Wonderland because it's my favourite book. It was the birth of non-sense writing.

It makes no sense, things just kind of happen. But it's fun.



Quotes from the book - "Now, here, you see, it takes all the running you can do, to keep in the same place. If you want to get somewhere else, you must run at least twice as fast as that!"

"Who in the world am I? Ah, that's the great puzzle."

"Why, sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast."

"If everybody minded their own business, the world would go around a great deal faster than it does."

"It is better to be feared than loved."

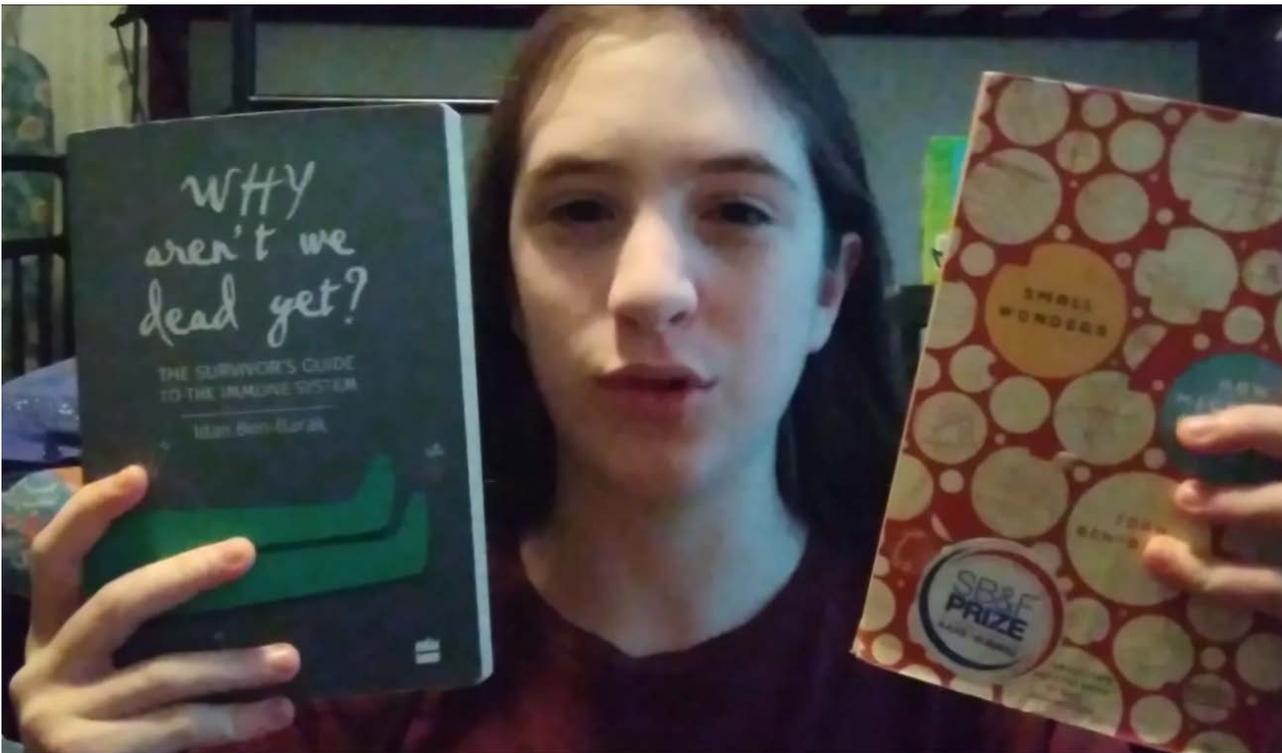
"It would be so nice if something made sense for a change."

"I'm not strange, weird, off, nor crazy, my reality is just different from yours."

What a great choice Anika – such a unique and imaginative book!

Daniel Ben-Barak

Small Wonders and Why Aren't We Dead Yet? are two popular science books written by Idan Ben-Barak. Small Wonders is about microbiology; so very tiny living things, their applications, how they live and thrive, some diseases, some history. Meanwhile, Why Aren't We Dead Yet? is about immunology, about various diseases and how our body fights them off. I chose them because they are very informative books but also enjoyable to read. They are filled with jokes and quips while also explaining most of the factual content in a simple and understandable way that's meant for all readers while containing a lot more than just the basics which makes the books not feel like kiddie books or textbooks.

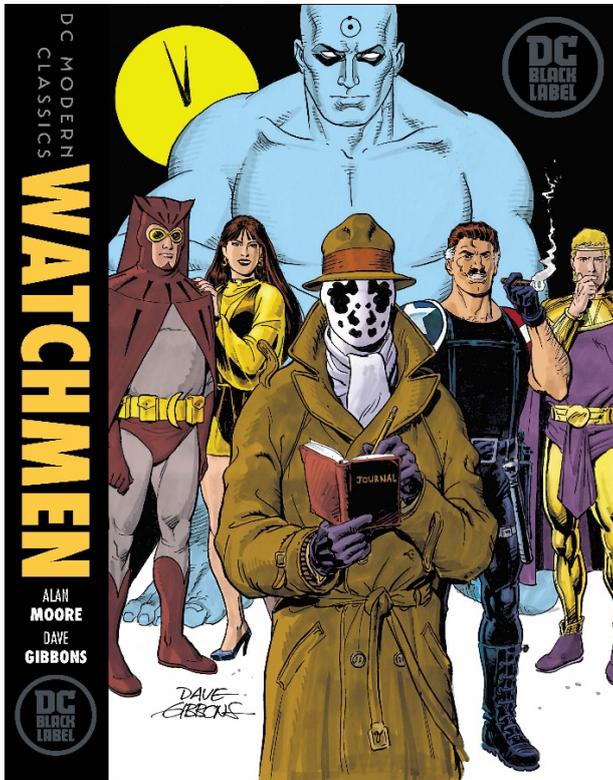


Overall, I enjoyed presenting these books and the session overall was enjoyable. It was a nice change of pace from Julie talking and everyone put in effort and did a good job. 8/10, would do again.

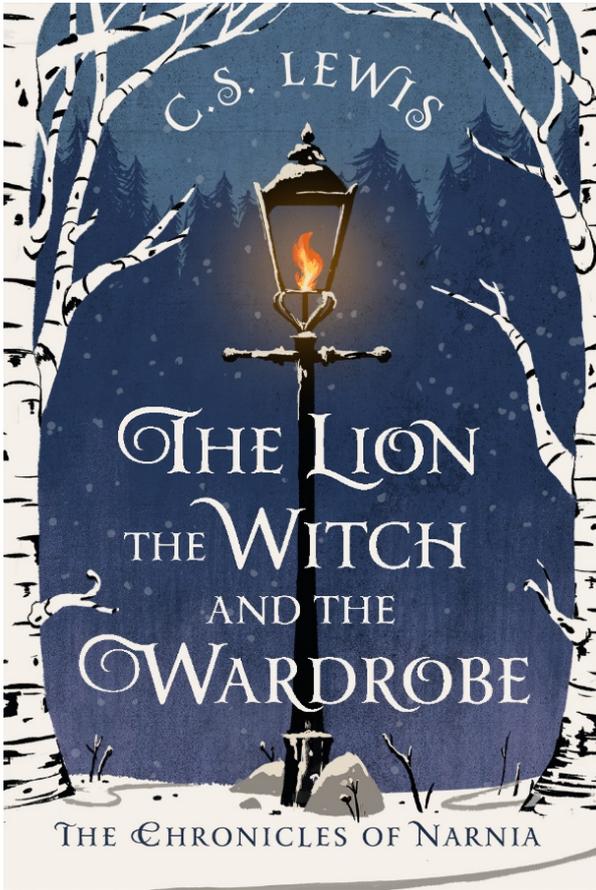
Excellent presentation Daniel – you were so articulate and energetic. Great books!

Santiago Mattocks-Troy

Watchmen is one of my favourite books. Because of the story and illustrations, I can understand why this is the number 1 selling graphic novel.



This was great Santiago – you presented so confidently and what a cool graphic novel!



The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe.

I grew up in Mildura – where temperatures soar beyond 45 degrees.

One summer, when I was a child, and the heat was hitting us in waves, I was given a book that I loved.

I imagined my wardrobe leading to new worlds of ice and snow, and mystical creatures.

Reading takes us beyond the limits of our reality and makes us dream of embarking on impossible quests.

Wonder-filled.

Thank you to all students for being so inspirational. Great images, stimulating ideas and wonderful choices.

I leave you all with a final image from Scarlett Rose's book.

For any of us feeling a little down, don't forget:

'You already have everything it takes to do big things'.



You already have everything
it takes to do big things.