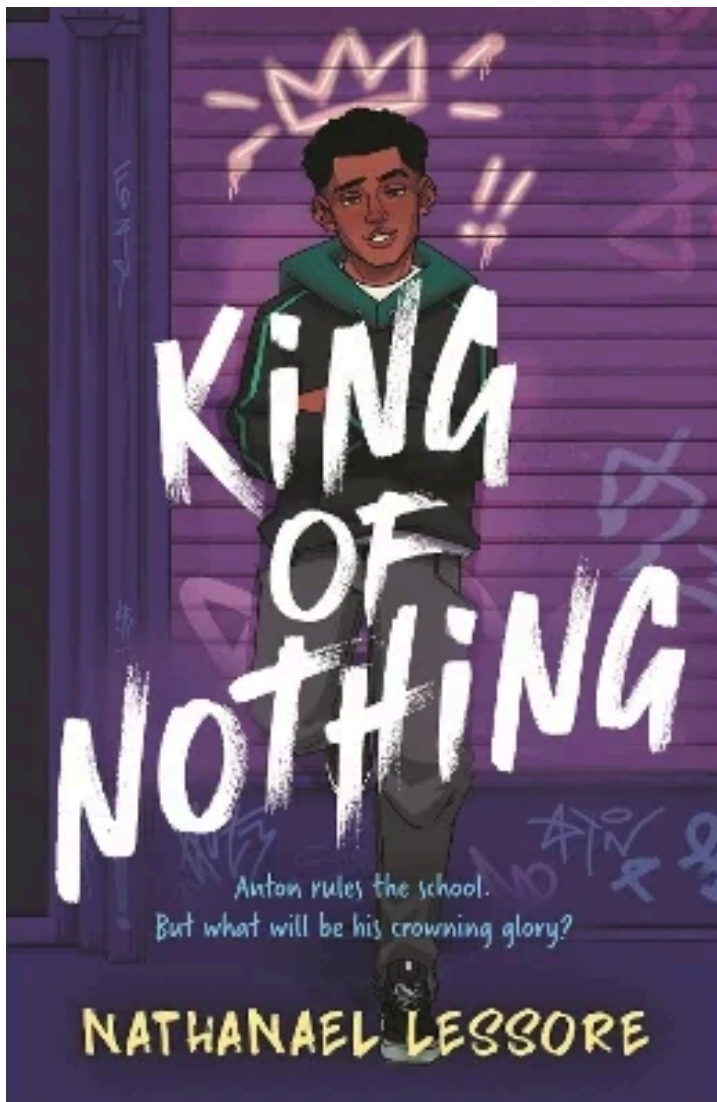


NEWSLETTER

SETTLEBECK READS

Issue 1 | 20/12/2024



Next term, we're highlighting *King of Nothing* by Nathanael Lessore—a witty and heartfelt novel perfect for secondary school students. The story follows Anton, a teenager grappling with the ups and downs of school life, family expectations, and friendships.

Lessore's conversational and humorous writing style brings Prince's world to life, making this a relatable and engaging read for young people. With themes of self-discovery, resilience, and standing up for what's right, the book offers plenty of opportunities for meaningful discussions at home. We highly recommend *King of Nothing* for students aged 12+ who are looking for an inspiring and entertaining story that reflects the challenges and triumphs of adolescence. Why not encourage your child to give it a try? It's a great pick for the holiday reading list!

Author Spotlight

CATHERINE BRUTON

On 16th December, Settlebeck School was thrilled to welcome Catherine Bruton, the acclaimed author of *No Ballet Shoes in Syria*, *Following Frankenstein*, and *Another Twist in the Tale*. Her engaging novels, known for exploring themes of resilience, identity, and hope, have captivated young readers across the country.

During her visit, Catherine shared insights into her writing process, discussed the inspiration behind her stories, and answered students' questions about life as an author.

As part of our tutor time reading programme, students have particularly enjoyed *Another Twist in the Tale*, a creative reimagining of the classic Dickensian world that sparked lively discussions and inspired thoughtful reflections.

The visit was a fantastic opportunity for students to connect with an author whose stories they've come to know and love. We look forward to seeing how this experience inspires their own reading and writing journeys!

"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body."
Joseph Addisont

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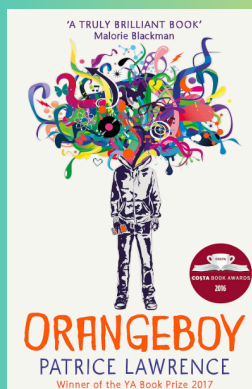
Book Review by Dr Hunter

Book Review: Orange Boy by Patrick Lawrence

Orange Boy by Patrick Lawrence follows Marlon, a teenager trying to escape his troubled past after his father's mysterious death. As he struggles to move forward, he's pulled back into dangerous situations that force him to confront who he is and who he wants to become.

The story is fast-paced, with a well-developed main character in Marlon. His internal conflict is relatable, and the book explores important themes like loyalty, friendship, and the impact of past choices.

What stands out about Orange Boy is how it makes you think about the tough decisions we all face and how they shape our future. It's an emotional and thought-provoking read for anyone looking for a story about overcoming adversity and finding your true self.



Book Review Competition!

Is your child passionate about books? Do they love sharing their thoughts on what they've read? Encourage them to enter our Settlebeck Book Review Competition!

How to Enter

Write a review of a book you've read recently. It can be a novel, non-fiction, or even a graphic novel. Share what you loved (or didn't!) about the book, who you'd recommend it to, and why.

Prizes

- 1st Place: A £10 book voucher and your review featured in the school newsletter!
- 2nd Place: A mystery book prize.
- 3rd Place: A mystery book prize.

Guidelines

- Reviews should be between 200-300 words.
- Be creative and honest—make us want to read the book!
- Submit your review to Dr Hunter (hunterj@settlebeck.org) by the 15th January 2025.

All entries will be celebrated, and the winners will be announced next term.

Get reading, get writing, and good luck!

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At Settlebeck School, all students participate in five tutor reading sessions per fortnight as part of our Reading for Pleasure programme. These sessions are designed to foster a love of reading while building vital literacy skills. Regular reading not only enhances fluency but also increases exposure to a wide range of vocabulary, helping students to better understand and express themselves across all subjects. By prioritising reading, we aim to equip students with the skills and confidence they need for academic success and lifelong learning.

This term we have read

Year 7	Cirque du Freak	Darren Shan	
Year 8	Refugee Boy	Benjamin Zephaniah	
Year 9	Lord of the Flies	William Golding	
Year 10	The Hunger Games	Suzanne Collins	
Year 11	Thursday Murder Club	Richard Osman	

Encourage Reading at Home

Fostering a love for reading at home is key to building your child's confidence and literacy skills. Here are some quick tips:

- **Create a Routine:** Set aside 15–20 minutes daily for reading to make it a natural part of the day.
- **Offer Choice:** Let your child pick books they enjoy—fiction, non-fiction, or graphic novels.
- **Talk About Books:** Discuss what they're reading at school or for fun to spark excitement and deeper understanding.
- **Read Together:** Share a story or read the same book and chat about your favorite parts.
- **Explore Audiobooks:** Great for reluctant readers or family car journeys.

A little encouragement can go a long way in nurturing a lifelong love for books!

Reading-Habits-Survey-for-Parents

