

LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 10

WORDS: MRS B

DESIGN: MISS M



THEME OF *Creative Writing* THE WEEK

Dear Students,

As Librarians we all love books - reading books and talking about books and talking about reading books! - but we would have nothing to talk about at all if there were no authors. So this week, we're talking about creative writing.

We're still living through a very strange time and you may feel you have something unique to say about it! Whether you ever want anyone else to read it is entirely up to you. There are so many different types of creative writing to explore. We've provided some resources to help you find a medium you love.

KEEP A JOURNAL

Have you tried to keep a regular journal or diary? You probably already document some elements of your life; if you use a form of social media that preserves what you share, that is journaling. A diary doesn't have to be fancy but it takes practise to get into the habit. All you need is a notebook and a chunk of time at the end of the day!

Maybe you could write a list of things that you like to do or choose three things you are grateful for. Some people choose to document events that have happened and their feelings about them. However, there is a risk with this kind of journaling; if you share private thoughts the last thing you want is someone else finding them. This is where technology comes in.

If privacy is your priority (and if you are sharing your deepest feelings then perhaps it should be) then an online journal could be the solution. **Penzu** is a free e-journal with extra security features to keep your private writing safe. Just make sure you remember your password in case you want to re-read your entries when you're older.

SHARE YOUR WRITING

Once you have some writing, perhaps you'll want to let other people read it!

www.getunderlined.com is a community of teen readers and writers, supported by the publisher Penguin Random House. You can share your writing there, or read stories created by others. If you would like (virtual!) company during the writing process then why not attempt **NaNoWriMo** in November, where people from around the world challenge themselves to write up to 50,000 words in a single month? Their Young Writers Programme also provides year round support and advice at **ywp.nanowrimo.org**.

Based in the US, **Teen Ink** is similar to Underlined but also includes poetry and non-fiction writing. Explore more at **www.teenink.com/**.

AUTHOR ADVICE

If you prefer to use your real-life experiences as influences for fiction. We have two award-winning authors to give you some advice!

Anthony McGowan has just won the CILIP Carnegie Award for his book *Lark*. As his is the only literary prize voted for by librarians and pupils we are always interested in the result. He talks about writing in lockdown at **www.youtube.com/watch?v=LrvaMz54qzY** and you can find information about *Lark* at **www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/books/lark**.

We know **Jason Reynolds** as the author of *Long Way Down* and the *Track* series, but he has also been appointed America's National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. He has created a brilliant writing guide for young people called *Write | Right | Rite*. You can find it here:

guides.loc.gov/jason-reynolds/grab-the-mic/wrr



ENTER A COMPETITION

If 50,000 words seems a little too much for now, then why not try your hand at flash fiction?

You can see some examples at **bookriot.com /2018/06/18/flash-fiction-stories** - as you can see, they're very short! The **National Flash Fiction Youth Competition** is open to Years 11 - 13.

You can find out more at **www1.chester.ac.uk/english/flash**.

LIBRARIAN'S CORNER

This week, we're sharing our favourite Carnegie reads!

Mrs B loved **Angie Thomas'** *On the Come Up* for the way it rushes headlong into a story filled with relevant and timely themes. Plus, any book that comes with its own playlist is a winner in her eyes! You can check it out at **www.epicreads.com/blog/on-the-come-up-playlist**.

Mrs P is a big fan of Anthony McGowan's *Brock*, the first book in the series leading to *Lark*. Although the language was very accessible, it dealt with mature themes and didn't talk down to the reader. She also loves anything to do with animals and nature!

Miss M really enjoyed unravelling the mysteries of *Nowhere on Earth* - it kept her on the edge of her seat until the very end!

