



# LRC

TERMLY MAGAZINE

ISSUE 05 • DECEMBER 2022

# LRC

## TERMLY MAGAZINE

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# Summer Competitions

## Year 7 Extreme Reading

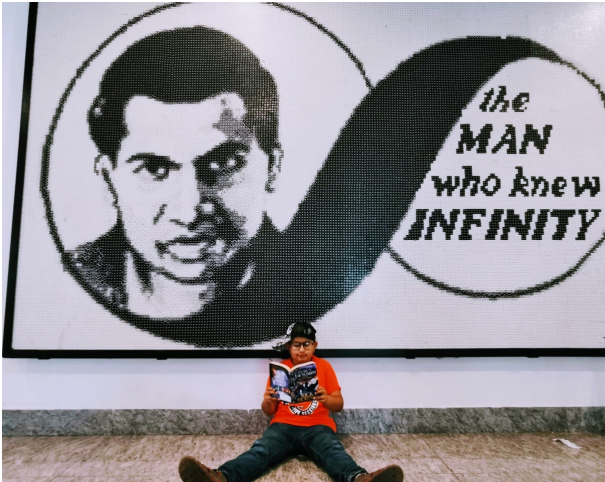
Year 7 were challenged to take a photo reading somewhere interesting or unusual over the summer holidays. We were impressed by all of our Extreme Readers and we would like to congratulate our winners:

Rajat N 7L  
Judown J, 7E  
Darsh P 7S  
Neel K 7W  
Anish P 7C (on the front cover)

Everyone who entered received a DARE point for participation and the winners received an Amazon gift card. Each tutor room received a poster of all their entries and a full display can be found in the LRC. We have also used the photos for our new Library Reward cards.

## Summer Reading Challenge

Year 7 were also invited to complete our Summer Reading Challenge. Over the summer, pupils were encouraged to read at least six books from a range of different genres and they recorded what they read using an online form. DARE points were awarded to all pupils who recorded having read at least 6 books. We were very impressed by all the reading that took place over summer and we would like to congratulate 7E for collectively reading the most: 192 books!





# Bookbuzz: Free Books For Year 7

Bookbuzz is a reading programme from Book Trust that aims to help schools inspire a love of reading in 11 to 13-year olds. Participating schools give their students the opportunity to choose their own book to take home and keep from a list of 17 titles. They are all carefully selected by a panel of experts to ensure quality, suitability and to encourage reading for pleasure.

We are delighted to have been able to gift the whole of Year 7 a free book each, just in time for Reading Week 2022.

Some of the most popular books chosen include Nightshade, by Anthony Horowitz and Orion Lost by Alastair Chisholm.

We would like to thank the Old Redingensians Association for funding this programme.

Year Book Buzz Library Lesson

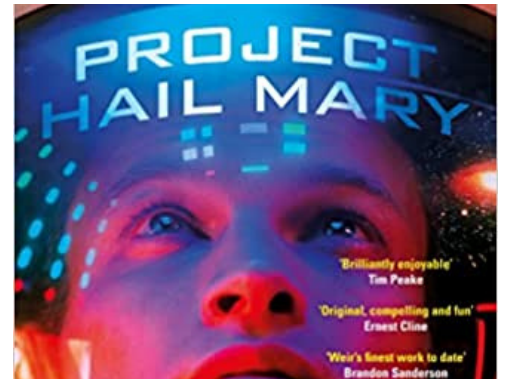


I am absolutely enjoying my  
book. It is so thrilling and  
intriguing  
*Aravindth, 7L*

# What's Hot This Term?

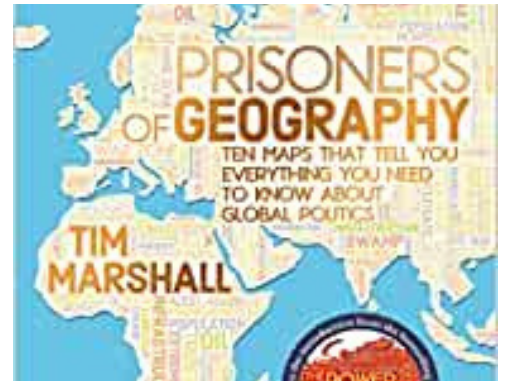
## Junior Fiction

1. Big Shot (Jeff Kinney)
2. The Novice (Taran Matharu)
3. Hostage (Chris Bradford)
4. Percy Jackson and the Last Olympian (Rick Riordan)
5. You'll Be the Death of Me (Karen McManus)



## Senior Fiction

1. A Game of Thrones (George R.R. Martin)
2. The Godfather (Mario Puzo)
3. Leviathan Wakes (James S. A. Corey)
4. Project Hail Mary (Andy Weir)
5. The Atlas Six (Olivie Blake)

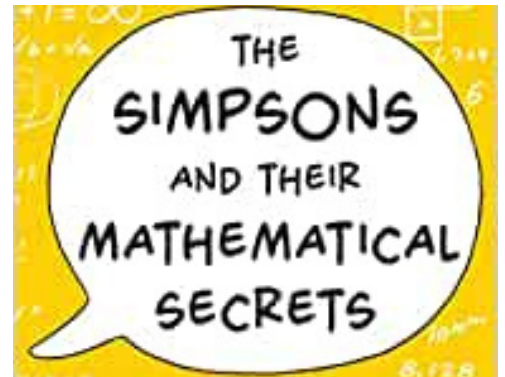


## Non-Fiction

1. Python Challenge! (P. M. Heathcote)
2. Prisoners of Geography (Tim Marshall)
3. The Simpsons and Their Mathematical Secrets (Simon Singh)
4. 50 Maths Ideas You Really Need to Know (Tony Crilly)
5. The Chemistry of Life (Steven Rose)

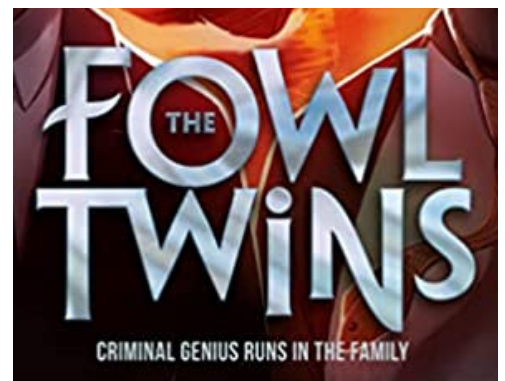
## eBooks (ePlatform)

1. Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (J.K. Rowling)
2. Boy (Roald Dahl)
3. Good Omens (Neil Gaiman)



## Audiobooks (ePlatform)

1. Wonder (R.J. Palacio)
2. The Fowl Twins (Eoin Colfer)
3. The Lost Hero (Rick Riordan)



## BOOST YOUR EMPATHY BY READING!



# Empathy Action Month November 2022

Empathy is the ability to imagine and understand other people's feelings and perspectives. It is an important life skill and it can help with relationships and mental health.

Scientific evidence shows that immersion in literature is an effective way to build our understanding of other people.

During November, all year 8, 9 and 10 pupils visited the LRC for a special empathy themed lesson.

Pupils were then invited to enter our Empathy Boost Challenge. This involved reading at least one empathy boosting book and making an empathy resolution.

“ My empathy resolution is to try and look out for people/notice when people aren't happy ”

*James, Y10*



Y10 Empathy Boost Library Lessons



Y10 Empathy Boost Library Lessons



# Reading Week 2022

Our first Reading Week was held the week following October half-term. We were very busy in the run-up to it! LRC staff and Pupil Librarians processed 185 reservations for LRC books, illustrating the enthusiasm pupils have for trying material to stretch and support them.

This year, 1337 books were loaned during the two-week period before half-term compared to 993 books last year. Non-fiction titles in particular saw an increase in popularity, with 325 titles borrowed this year against the 189 loans last year.

## Here are some of our Reading Week favourites:

- The Undercover Economist
- Troy: Our Greatest Story Retold
- Prisoners of Geography
- The Magic Money Tree and Other Economic Tales
- Algorithms to Live By
- 50 Physics Ideas You Really Need to Know
- The Simpsons and their Mathematical Secrets
- Narrative Economics
- SPQR: A History of Ancient Rome
- But How Do It Know? The Basic Principles of Computers for Everyone
- Can't We Just Print More Money? Economics in ten simple questions
- What If? 2

We asked a few students about Reading Week and their experiences:

## What did you enjoy most about Reading Week?

"I loved having a calmer week than normal, learning more about the things that interested me in each subject and having some free time to revise some things that I felt a bit shaky on. I enjoyed being able to study whatever I want and explore real life applications from key aspects of our learning. I also enjoyed reading some dystopian fiction books. I loved reading around my subjects, reading about things that interested me, reading news articles and revising."

## What did you read?

### Fiction

#### **The Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown**

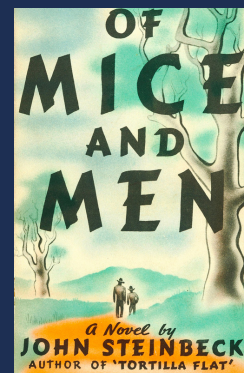
I really enjoyed this book, and it's a real page turner. It perfectly blends what we experience with what happens behind the scenes of our experience. If you like adventure thrillers, with a hint of crime added alongside, this book is definitely a good read.

#### **To the Lighthouse by Virginia Woolf**

I particularly enjoyed the narrative techniques, namely streams of consciousness, used which pulled together an interesting story revolving around the life of a family wracked with turmoil.

### **Land of the Lustrous by Haruko Ichikawa**

Whilst not on any reading list that I was given or in the LRC as far as I know, the manga Land of the Lustrous by Haruko Ichikawa dazzled me with both its art style and melancholic story. Although some of the characters were hard to keep track of given their similar designs and the manga being black and white, not colour, the strong narrative progression following the protagonist, Phosphophyllite, kept me reading on regardless - I ended up reading all 11 volumes of the manga in one sitting. The manga is a complex exploration of many ideas, ranging from justice and morality to immortality and the concept of The Ship of Theseus. Furthermore, it smoothly juggles all of this with a straightforward, easy to follow story. Suffice to say, I highly recommend this manga although it is a bit depressing.



Two melancholic tales, of two different times

### **Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck**

Steinbeck's work is one of the most depressing books I have ever read. Aside from the fact it is set during the Great Depression, the book's short reading length, realistic setting and understandable choice of words make this so much more of an emotional read than other morally-grey stories.

### **Truly Devious by Maureen Johnson**

I loved reading Truly Devious - I love all crime fiction but this one in particular hooked my interest from the start, and had me guessing all the way to the end.

### **The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins**

I read The Hunger Games during Reading Week and I found it captivating right from the very first chapter. This book is the first novel of the trilogy and it takes us to a future where the CAPITOL has taken control of everything. We see this from the perspective of Katniss Everdeen trying to provide for her family after the untimely death of her father. It is a gripping story of how an older sister protects her younger sister and gives it her all to win The Games.

### Non-Fiction

### **A Guide to Game Theory by Fiona Carmichael**

A Guide to Game Theory is a great book. It explains in very simple terms how everyday situations can be thought of as a game and how we can maximise the utility brought from these situations.

### **The Manga Guide to Physics' by Hideo Nitta**

This is an excellent way to understand the basics of motion. It explores principles such as vectors, momentum and acceleration through its two characters: an athlete trying to improve her tennis game and a genius student. The book always keeps things interesting with quirky examples and often breaks into short, worded sections that go into more detail about the topics, ensuring full understanding where the comics may have omitted parts. Even as a student in early Year 12, I found this useful in revising the fundamentals, filling knowledge gaps as well as learning new approaches and viewpoints too. I would definitely say this is a good book for anyone studying Physics looking for a simplified introduction to motion.

### **The God Equation - Michio Kaku**

This book was really interesting and introduced me to Michio Kaku's work. I am a very passionate physicist and so was inspired to do more research after reading this book. Some of the content was quite complex but I really enjoyed reading it.

Mrs Kesteven and the Pupil Librarian team

# Reading Week:

## LRC Book Club Reviews



Members of the LRC Book Club Next to Their Reading Week Review Display

Members of Junior Book Club (Years 7-9) were invited to read a book or books over the course of the recent Reading Week and to complete a book review. Some chose to read their own book, whilst others picked a book from one of the suggested reading lists which were published beforehand. Fifteen boys read nineteen books between them and wrote some inspiring reviews. These are now displayed upstairs in the LRC. All boys who took part enjoyed the experience and hopefully their reviews will encourage the wider school community to pick up one of their books to read. Thank you to everyone who took part.

Mrs Jackson.  
Junior Book Club Leader



# Fresh Stories and New Voices in YA Fiction: A Report From Comic Con

I was fortunate enough to attend an author panel with Francesca May, Hannah Mathewson and Juno Dawson at MCM London Comic Con during half-term. Francesca May is the author of *Wild and Wicked Things*; Hannah Mathewson is the author of *Wayward* and Juno Dawson was the winner of the YA Book Prize with *Meat Market*. Her latest novel is for adults and is called *Her Majesty's Royal Coven*.

When asked about the current trends in YA fiction, all the authors agreed that publishers were keen to support authors writing about social issues and were particularly keen to support books with LGBT themes following the success of series such as *Heartstoppers*. This was not always the case - Juno Dawson reflected on her struggles at the start of her career 15 or so years ago. Back then bookshops might have had a section with LGBT titles just for LGBT shoppers, whereas now mainstream books feature LGBT characters and these stories are accessible to a wider audience.

Another development in YA fiction was the rise in popularity of Romance novels such as *"It Ends With Us"* by Colleen Hoover. The authors reflected that they thought this could be a result of the isolation we all felt during lockdown and the human need for connection and belonging.

Finally, they discussed BookToks. Although it is a powerful tool for promoting books, they all agreed that this was a platform for avid readers, not authors or publishers. A BookTok novel that was featured throughout the weekend was *Atlas Six* by Olivie Blake.

Have you read it? What do you think of BookToks and the current trends in YA fiction?  
Email: [lkesteven@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:lkesteven@reading-school.co.uk)

Pride Group meets Wednesday lunchtime in L2. All years 11-13 - if you are younger and want to join please email Mrs Haugvik. Come along to eat lunch, play games, chat with other like minded people, and learn more about LGBTQ+ topics.

Mrs Kesteven

# National Poetry Day

## Poetry on the Stairs

National Poetry Day was celebrated in the LRC with our much loved Poetry on the Stairs event. Pupils enjoyed listening to poetry at break and lunch in the LRC, with a prize awarded to for the best Junior and Senior performance.

The Junior prize winner was Darsh P 7S who recited A Nation's Strength and the Senior prize winner was James F 12EF who entertained us with a range of poetry displaying a talent for accents and comic timing

This is an annual community event, organised this year by Pupil Librarian

Sid M 11L



# Reading School Book Award

The Reading School Book Award is awarded annually for recent YA Fiction. The shortlist is chosen by the Pupil Librarian Team and the winner is voted for by the students of Reading School.

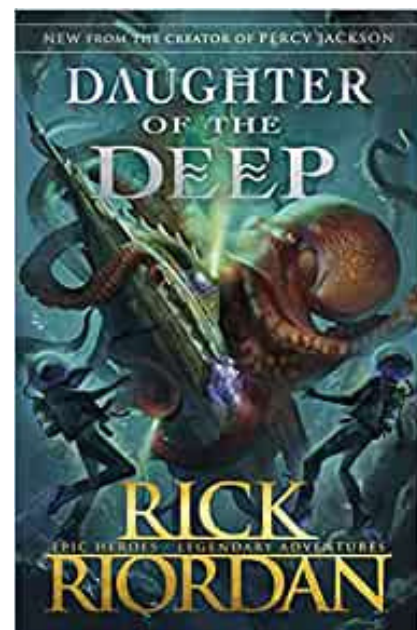
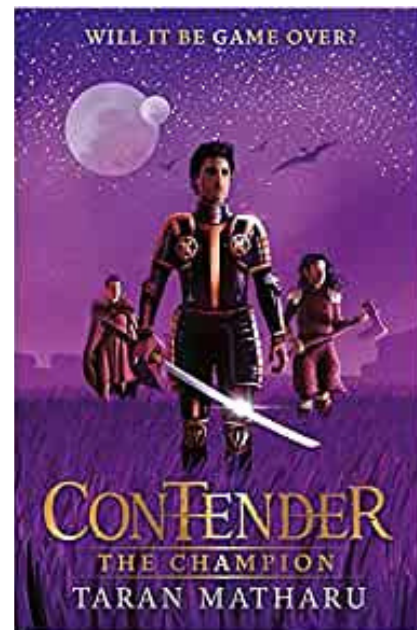
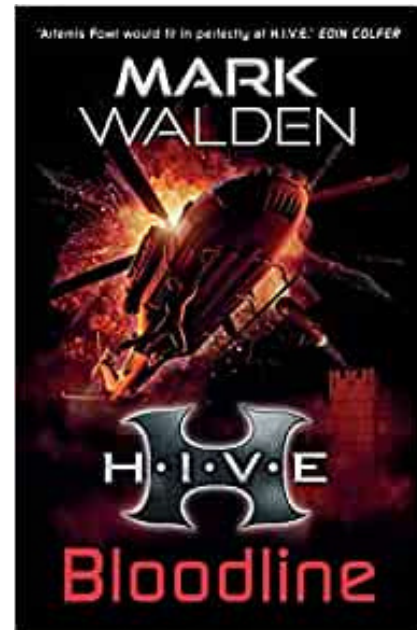
This year, Pupil Librarian Aden C co-ordinated the Book Award.

The shortlist:

- Bloodline by Walden
- The Champion by Matharu
- Daughter of the Deep by Riordan
- Jet Skis, Swamps and Smugglers by Muchamore
- You'll Be The Death Of Me by McManus

Based on first impressions, The Champion took the lead. Aden created a [video](#) to reveal the results.

Robert Muchamore, Taran Matharu and Mark Walden agreed to be interviewed. You can read the full interviews [here](#). Pupil Librarian Prabhav B co-ordinated the interviews, using questions submitted by students for the authors.





# Reading School Book Award

## A Sneak Peek

Here's a sneak peek at our author interviews:

**Taran Matharu** was asked: *What was the inspiration behind *The Champion*?*

My love of history! I wanted to be able to include multiple historical mysteries and folk from time periods that interest me, and the world of Contender was a great way to do that

**Robert Muchamore** was asked: *What is your recipe for creating a book? How do you find the balance between relationships and action as well as comedy?*

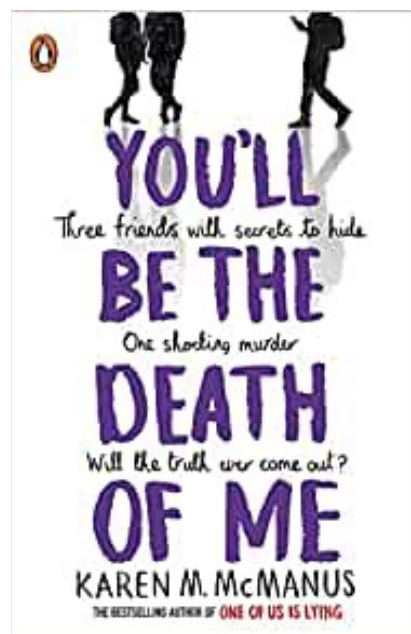
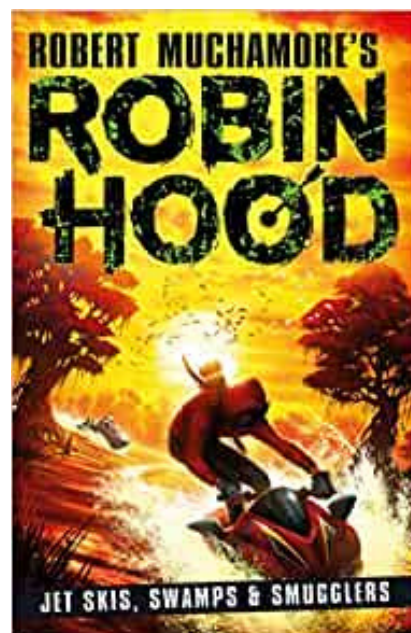
I guess you just have to plan the story carefully so it's not all dark and grim. If it is, you need to add something lighter at the story planning stage.

**Mark Walden** was asked: *What is the strangest object that you use on a regular basis?*

It's probably not that strange, but I do have an unhealthy obsession with Lego.

The final vote will take place in December and the winner will be revealed in January!

Previous winners include *Nightshade* by Anthony Horowitz and *The Tower of Nero* by Rick Riordan.



# Manga Shopping Trip

Manga are Japanese comics and these books are very popular at Reading School. Some of our most avid readers visited Waterstones with a budget of £250 to spend on new titles for the LRC. Store manager Mark was on hand to offer specialist advice and we are very pleased with the new books.



Manga Shopping Trip to Waterstones

I thought it was really cool how the LRC lets the students buy the books they want to read, and I had a great time socialising with other manga enjoyers"

- Karthik D, Deputy Head Librarian



# Hardback Vs Paperback Books



A flexible warrior

We are at war. An arduous, tempestuous war, that has stood the test of time, one that rages on to the current day. A war, that is rather unorthodox in nature - for its battles are neither fought with swords and shields, nor guns or bombs- but rather, with paper, ink, leather and string – its battles are those of craftsmanship. This is the Battle of Hardback and Paperback books.

It has long been contested within Booklore as to which one of the two is the more superior form of reading experience – the old, well-built and traditional hardback or the newer, more functional, agile paperback. As time drags by, the question has become even more heated. I shall report on the strengths and weaknesses of both opponents and, we shall see a victor to this lengthy conflict.

## The Brute Hardback

We shall start with the Hardback book. A hardened warrior, that has stood the test of time, their numbers diminish as they fail to clone themselves to the same speed and tenacity as their agile foe. These strong books have lived through the ages and have generation upon generation of descendants but are slowly falling in number with their grandfather leatherbacks being lost through time, save for a few hidden nooks and crannies.

Now I shall show to you the body of the beast.

As the namesake suggests, it has a hard front cover with pages in between. Typically, to be conservative with supplies, they have binding that is glued; the pages are glued together and subsequently attached to the spine. A few elite warriors remain with sewn binding – where the pages are sewn from end to end and attached to the spine. Yet, these elite warriors are hidden well...

Glued binding typically supplies a satisfactory holding of the pages, however if the ends are pulled too far, they may end up tearing or weakening. Furthermore, with glued binding, you won't be able to place the book flat on a table or in your hands.

However, hidden away, the elite warriors of the Hardback realm that have sewn binding have no such weakness as the string used to sew the pages together keeps them together even when completely flat.

These brutes have an outer shell of the strongest armour – completely impenetrable to knives, water and can also be some of the best spectres of sights that one may look at. These covers can withstand many attacks and tribulation that their more flexible counterparts cannot stand. However, there is one weakness that hardbacks typically do not withstand. That is, what lay between both covers.

The pages in between the covers of the book are of the weakest calibre and can often be taken advantage of by the foe with water. The damage is critical. Pages fly out of the book like feathers of a bird and most times, is incredibly difficult or even impossible to repair.



Furthermore, the flexibility on the reader's hands is severely limited by the fixed position of the hard covers. Such weakness has been exploited by their enemy...

These books can have standard paper but can also have acid – free paper that is much more luxurious in feel and have a way with the reader that no other book can rival.

Overall, a brute warrior with an Achilles' heel, a hardback book makes a formidable addition to your book collection. But a challenger emerges from the aether...

## The Agile Paperback

In recent years, a hoard has grown on our land. Appearing in numbers never greater than ever before recorded in booklore, the paperbacks attack in strength in a style which they claim to be, the future.

These agile warriors manoeuvre their way around their hardier foe and attack from many angles like ninja in the forests. As with before, we shall have a look at the body of the stealthy warrior.

A simple look and yet quite effective. Two pieces of semi – durable pieces of hardened paper enclosing the content within. Most often with glued binding, their main weapon is their flexibility.

These warriors can move in any way, any direction, any angle and yet still be intact all the same. This has led them into almost conquering the full landscape of reading. However, they do lack one strength that their opponents dominate in: style and hardiness.

The beauty of the paperback, that makes it so effective in combat, is typically the beauty of the writing within the work. Otherwise, these aren't the most attractive of books. Furthermore, these warriors stay vulnerable to sharp edges which can easily tear through the flesh of the fighter - no armour protects the front or rear, so nothing protects the paper between either unlike their hardback foe. However, one way in which a paperback fight back on the stylistic front is that with damage, wear and tear, the book only receives more character and looks like a battle – hardened fighter, with scars of the past and nothing else. But still, for less well – looking wounds, these books can appear to look a bit shabby.

## Victor on a Precarious Platform

Despite these weaknesses, the sheer versatility of the paperback to damage from the elements as well as the reader who holds them, makes them one of the most powerful warriors and as I see it, the victor of this

conflict; the hardbacks have been driven back onto a guerrilla front, but the paperback emerges victorious as a new era emerges for the world of readers. Whether this change will be accepted by those of which hold the book for the content within, only time will tell...

**Siddhant M, 11L**

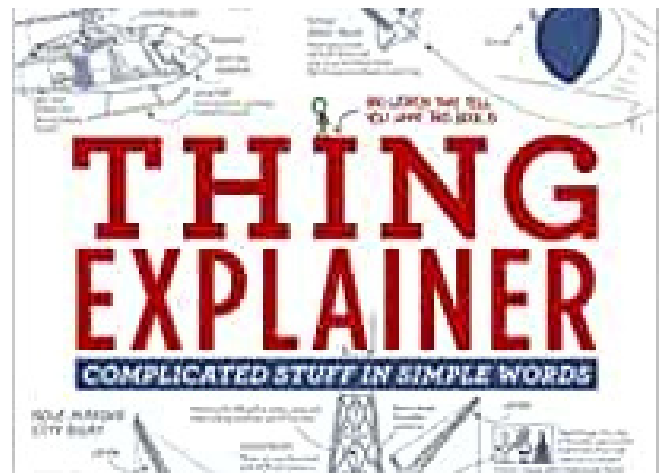
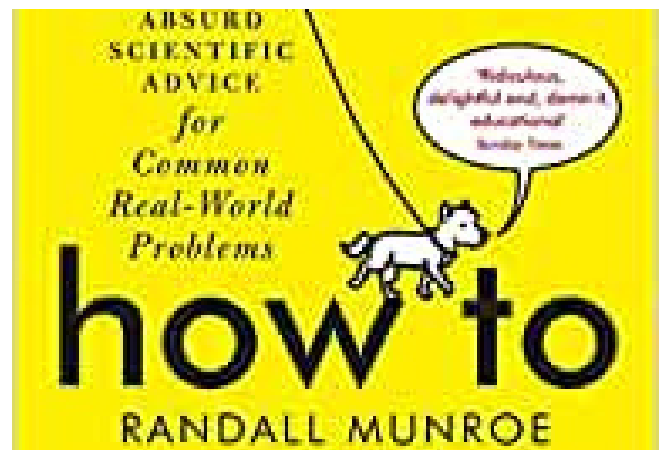
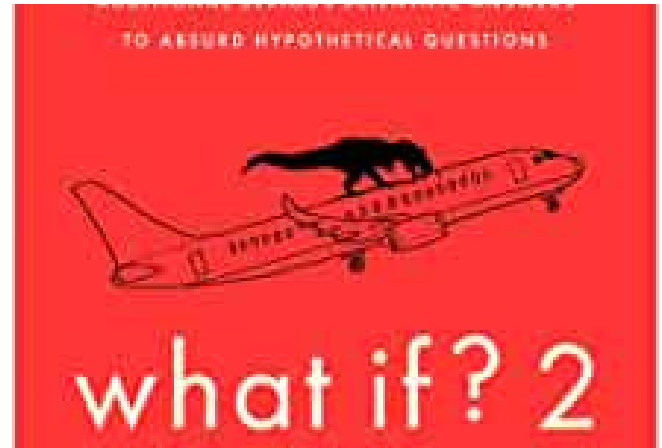


# What if? 2

## And other brilliant books by Randall Munroe

“Many of you may have already heard of Randal Munroe – in fact I would have hoped you have; he even has an asteroid named after him! But obscure astronomical objects aside, he’s also known for his work as an internet cartoonist and is famous for his daily comic series XKCD. His work as a NASA robotics tech and his love for comics come together in an awesomely entertaining fashion – an incredible mash-up of presentation and content that lends incredibly to his written works.

His first books “What if?” and “What if? 2” detail a series of absurd hypothetical questions... answered in an unflinchingly serious manner, complete with actual physics formulas and mathematics – alongside the occasional [frequent] pop culture reference. With questions ranging from things we’ve all heard before like “what if we dropped a nuke in a hurricane?” to insane ideas such as “what if you pitched a baseball at 90% the speed of light?” As it turns out, nuke in a hurricane? Not much effect. Baseball at 90% of the speed of light? Literally a city levelling nuclear firestorm. Thank God this book got the sequel it deserved...



# What if? 2

And other brilliant books by Randall Munroe cont...

His next book, “Thing Explainer” is exactly what it says it is. The entire premise of the book being that Munroe explains things, from simple concepts like numbers all the way to technical marvels like helicopters and skyscrapers, all while using only the 1000 most commonly used words in the English alphabet. Pencils become ‘writing sticks’, atom bombs become ‘machines for burning cities’, and microwave ovens become ‘food heating radio boxes’. Every hilariously simple, but the same time nerdily in-depth, explanation is accompanied by a glorious A3 sized blueprint schematic. Truly a great book for understanding everything in, literally, the most basic of terms, from the mundane up to the magnificent.

And finally, we have “How to?”. The point of this book is simple. To teach you how to do things...just differently. Munroe isn’t insane [maybe a little bit] so he gives you options: you can do things the right way, or you can do things his way. The difference in approach is...dramatic to say the least. Sure, one could move house by packing up their things in boxes, hiring movers and, y’know, moving. But one could also strap several large jet engines to their entire house and fly themselves to their new place of residence. Up to you which one you want to try.

To sum it up: Munroe has a lot of answers. What if the sun disappeared? Munroe has you covered. How exactly does a ‘picture taker’ (camera) work? Munroe can tell you using only the 100 most common English words. Want to know how to be on time? Well you can start early...or travel near the speed of light on a scooter. Truly Munroe has a lot of answers, an incredible sense of humor, and a charming artstyle – so check out all of his books [available in the LRC] and see if you learn a little something. I guarantee that you will.

Prabhav B

“

**If you decide to follow the advice of an internet cartoonist, you deserve anything that happens to you.”**

**- Randall Munroe**

”





Edited by Siddhant M