

St John Bosco

ARTS COLLEGE

- **KS3 Reading for Pleasure**
- **'War' stories and poems**

Year 9



**A guide for parents &
students**

The Reading Challenge

To encourage frequent reading, we are setting some challenges to KS3 students. Below is a reading list ranked in challenge order from Bronze to Silver & Gold. These books can be used as your 10 mins reading book or you could read them at home. You can earn prizes and certificates from your teacher if you read titles from these lists:

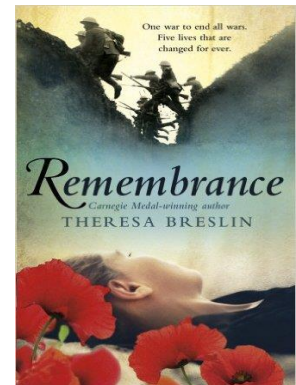
Gold reads



1) *Remembrance* (by Theresa Breslin)

This book links to 'War Poetry' through its depiction of themes such as love and loss.

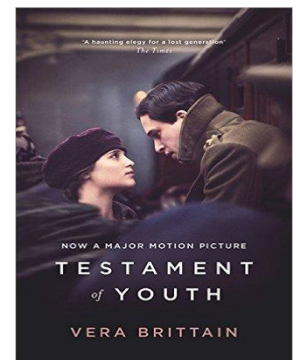
Scotland, 1915. A group of teenagers from two families meet for a picnic, but the war across the Channel is soon to tear them away from such youthful pleasures. All too soon, the horror of what is to become known as The Great War engulfs them, their friends and the whole village. From the horror of the trenches, to the devastating reality seen daily by those nursing the wounded, they struggle to survive - and nothing will ever be the same again.



2) *Testament of Youth* (by Vera Brittain)

This book links to 'War Poetry' as it is a truthful account of war which has helped to both form and define attitudes towards the conflict. This narrative will introduce a new generation to the reality of horror of the First World War.

In 1915 Vera Brittain abandoned her studies at Oxford to enlist as a nurse in the armed forces, serving in London, in Malta, and at the Western Front in France. By war's end, all those closest to her were dead, and she had witnessed first-hand the destruction and suffering of modern combat.

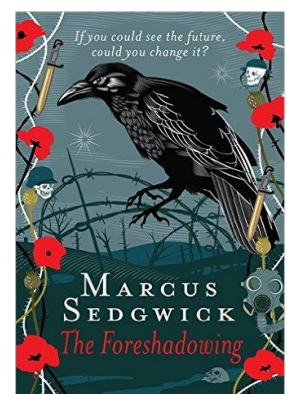


Much of what we know and feel about the First World War we owe to Brittain's "Testament of Youth." In this elegiac yet unsparing memoir, Brittain focused on the men and women who came of age as war broke out, exploring their politics, their hopes, and their fatal idealism.

3) *The Foreshadowing* (by Marcus Sedgewick)

This book links to 'War Poetry' as it depicts the uncertainty of war and its effects on relationships between friends and families.

It is 1915. Seventeen-year-old Sasha Fox is the privileged only daughter of a respected doctor living in the wealthy seaside town of Brighton. But her brothers, Edgar and Tom, have gone to war and Sasha has a terrible gift. She can see the future. Her premonitions show her untold horrors on the battlefields of the Somme, and worse still, what will happen to Edgar and Tom. Like the prophetess Cassandra, who foretold the tragedies of Troy, Sasha is trapped by power. No one will believe her. Her family have lost faith in her. She is determined to win them back, whatever the price. And it is a high one - seeing the future is a fate almost too awful to contemplate - for who wants to see the end of their own story...?

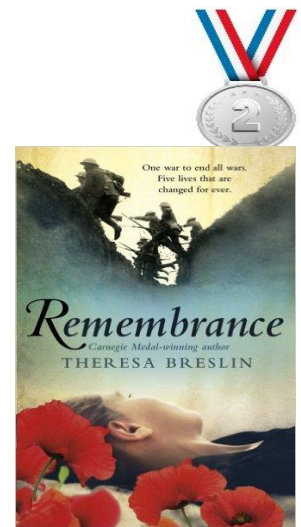


Silver reads

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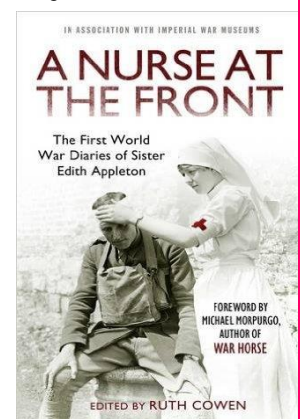
Scotland, 1915. A group of teenagers from two families meet for a picnic, but the war across the Channel is soon to tear them away from such youthful pleasures. All too soon, the horror of what is to become known as The Great War engulfs them, their friends and the whole village. From the horror of the trenches, to the devastating reality seen daily by those nursing the wounded, they struggle to survive - and nothing will ever be the same again.



2. *A Nurse at the Front: The First World War Diaries of Sister Edith Appleton* (by Ruth Cowen)

This book links to 'War Poetry' as it deals with the horrors of war and the use of poison gas and the terrible cost of battles such as Ypres. It also records what life was like for nurses and how Edith Appleton spent her time off-duty. There are moments of humour amongst the tragedy, and even lyrical accounts of the natural beauty that still existed amidst all the destruction. A must-read for anyone interested in the reality of nursing during the First World War.

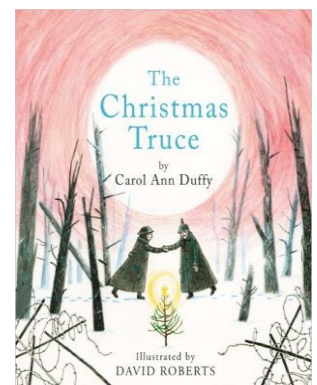
This book, the second in a series of four unique War Diaries produced in conjunction with the Imperial War Museum, tells a story that is rarely heard: the experiences of a nurse working close to the Western Front in the First World War. Incredibly, Edith Appleton served in France for the whole of the conflict. Her bravery and dedication won her the Military OBE, the Royal Red Cross and the Belgian Queen Elizabeth medal among others.



3. *The Christmas Truce* (by Carol Ann Duffy)

This is a narrative poem which directly links to the poems on the Scheme of Work through its exploration of the unique and iconic Christmas Day Truce and the camaraderie of soldiers in the face of terrible adversity.

Down at the front, on a cold winter's night in 1914, amidst the worst war the world had ever seen, an inexplicable silence spread from man to man. Belief was in the air. Then the soldiers ceased fire and the



magic of Christmas took hold . . .

Carol Ann Duffy's brilliant poem celebrates the miraculous truce between the trenches, when enemy shook hands with enemy, shared songs, swapped gifts, even played football, and peace found a place in No Man's Land.

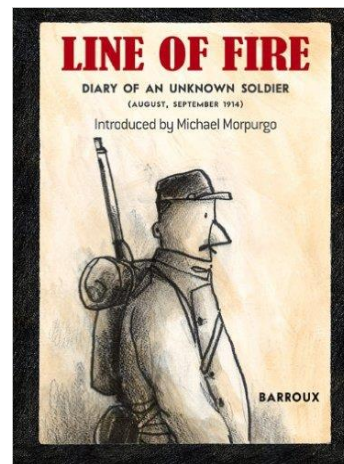
Bronze reads



1) *Line of Fire: Diary of an Unknown Soldier, August – September 2014* (by Barroux and Sarah Ardizzone)

This book links to 'War Poetry' through its portrayal of one man's account of war. It is silhouetted against the historical events of 1914 that formed and transformed the world we live in today.

One winter morning, Barroux was walking down a street in Paris when he made an incredible discovery: the real diary of a soldier from the First World War. Barroux rescued the diary from a rubbish heap and illustrated the soldier's words. We don't know who the soldier is or what became of him. We just have his words, and in his own words and Barroux's extraordinary pictures, this is his story.

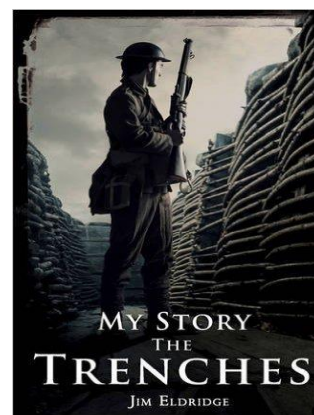


Our soldier recounts the first two months of the First World War, from the moment France officially declares war and mobilisation is announced, until early September 1914. His diary tells of the hope and the carnage; the long journeys and endless nights; the friendships, the horror and the hunger; the family he misses, the news he is anxious to receive; the sound of gunfire and the pain of swollen feet; the fear and the courage in the trenches; the sickness and the injuries; and a very narrow escape from death.

2. *My Story: The Trenches* (by Jim Eldridge)

This book links to 'War Poetry' through its depiction of a soldier's experiences in the trenches of the First World War.

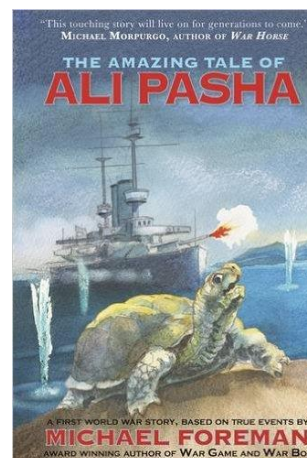
Part of the million-selling MY STORY series that brings the past into the real world, giving it a truly human touch. TRENCHES is set in 1917 and is the story of Billy Stevens, a telegraph operator, stationed near Ypres. The Great War has been raging for three years when Billy finds himself taking part in the deadly Big Push. But he is shocked to discover that the bullets of his fellow soldiers aren't just aimed at the enemy.



3. The Amazing Tale of Ali Pascha (by Michael Foreman)

This book links to 'War Poetry' through its presentation of the life of a typical British seaman and the difficulties he encounters whilst fighting the war.

On 6th May 1915, Henry Friston, a 21-year-old seaman, rejoined his battleship after ten days in Hell. Hell was just 180 metres long and seven metres wide and was otherwise known only as 'X Beach', Gallipoli. Henry, ferrying the wounded from the battlefield, had not eaten or slept for three days. Then, somehow, in the midst of the bombardments, he met an unlikely companion - a tortoise.



What else can we do?

There are lots of things that families can do together to support the improvement of reading ability and enjoyment – and not all of them require a book.

Talk as a family about reading

By secondary school most students are competent readers and are less likely to read aloud to an adult. That's a natural progression, but it doesn't mean that parents don't have a part to play. The higher level skills of inference and understanding the craft of an author can be supported by talking about what has been read.

Share a book

Just because you don't necessarily read together doesn't mean that parents and children can't share a book. Young Adult fiction is excellent and well worth a read as a parent. Why not both read the same book?

Model what it is to be a reader

Many parents will read, whether it be fiction, newspapers, online or in any other context. Get in the habit of being seen to read, and valuing reading.

Join the free online library

Library membership a free service for children and adults. There are no overdue fines as books are returned automatically. There is an excellent selection of books, audiobooks and magazines available. The software will work on a range of devices including mobile phones, tablets and laptops

You can join the online library at www.readliverpool.co.uk.

Visit Liverpool Central Library Liverpool



Liverpool Central Library, William Brown St, Liverpool, Merseyside L3 8EW

Monday	09:00	20:00
Tuesday	09:00	20:00
Wednesday	09:00	20:00
Thursday	09:00	20:00
Friday	09:00	20:00
Saturday	09:00	17:00

Good Reading

Fiction books aren't the only sort of reading material that will help you improve your reading ability.

Reading these will help:



Newspapers



Websites



Non-fiction



Magazines



Graphic Novels



Audio books

