

Reading is something that is really important to us here in school. Those of you who can remember my [assembly](#) from back in March will remember I talked about some of the books that have influenced me and my values and view on the world. Reading is important to us because it helps you build a strong vocabulary which supports your academic success. It is also important because it helps you build empathy and knowledge; 'knowledge is power' and we want you to have the powerful knowledge and understanding of the world to be able to become successful young adults. Reading can also offer joy and escapism, transporting us to other worlds, times, places and cultures, especially during lockdown.

In line with this week's challenge to read something new, as promised this week we are launching a brand new app called SORA, which allows you to borrow a huge range of books for free!

You can download the app on any device, or access on a computer at <https://soraapp.com/welcome>. To log on, click 'Find Your School', select 'University Academy Keighley', and sign in using your existing GMail log-in (the one you use to access your school email and Classroom). From there you'll be able to access a whole world of books on a range of topics to suit whatever you are interested in!

You can find step-by-step guidance on how to access the app [here](#); if you are unsure what to do please let me know.

With some much choice, it can be hard to know where to start; to help get you started some of the Leadership team in school have recommended you some books below:

**Mr Skurr** recommends 'Lord of The Flies' by William Golding.

**Mrs Davies** recommends 'Birdsong' by Sebastian Faulks because it combines a dreamy, historical storyline of innocence and falling in love with a brutal and raw depiction of life in the trenches, and is moving without being a cliché.

**Mrs Gudgeon** recommends 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas' by John Boyne, which focuses on the friendship of two boys who live in very different circumstances during WW2, because she loves the way it shows how hope and positivity can grow in a negative situation.

**Mr Turvey** recommends 'The Good Immigrant', a collection of stories by various writers which explores the experience of race and immigration from a range of perspectives, and is poignant, challenging, at times angry, but ultimately uplifting.

Happy reading! Please let us know if you read something which you enjoy or find inspiring; perhaps you can write a review to include in the next school bulletin?

Thanks,

Mr Turvey  
Assistant Principal