



# THE NSB TRUST

Northampton School for Boys  
Northampton School



# 2025

Term 4

Issue 2

A termly newsletter  
to support with  
reading at home and  
to help promote our  
reading culture across  
The NSB Trust.



Welcome to the second edition of the NSB Trust reading newsletter. This term we are excited to highlight the fantastic young adult books shortlisted for the 2025 Carnegie Prize for Writing. We would welcome any feedback on the newsletter; please email [jbarlow@nsbtrust.school](mailto:jbarlow@nsbtrust.school)

# 1 TOP TIPS FOR READING AT HOME

Recent research by the National Literacy Trust recorded that, for the first time, more children and young people say they enjoy listening to audiobooks (42.3%) than reading (34.6%).

The research also found that **young people who listen to audiobooks are more likely to enjoy reading for pleasure** compared to those that don't listen to audiobooks (52.4% vs 36%). For many young people, they reported that listening to audiobooks had helped to spark their interest in reading books. Audiobooks still help to promote many of the benefits of reading: **understanding narrative structures, exploring the world, building imagination and creativity, and increasing their rich vocabulary.**

Audiobooks are available on many online platforms but can also be accessed with a free Northamptonshire library membership by downloading the **"BorrowBox"** app and using your library log on details.



# 2 READING IN THE NEWS

The Carnegie Prize for Writing shortlist was announced on Tuesday 11th March. These books are chosen for their outstanding reading experience and are voted exclusively by librarians; we select our Trust-wide favourites.



# 3 READING AT THE NSB TRUST

Term 4 saw the launch of the NSB **"Beyond the Curriculum"** reading lists. These will be published and expanded every term to complement the broad range of topics covered in the curriculum. They are available on the school website for NS and NSB by following the links and navigating to **"Recommended Reading."**



# OUR FAVOURITES FROM THE SHORTLIST...

Masculinity and what it means to be a young man in today's society has emerged as an important theme on the Carnegie Medal for Writing shortlist with many writers reflecting the marginalised perspectives of boys and teenagers from disenfranchised communities.

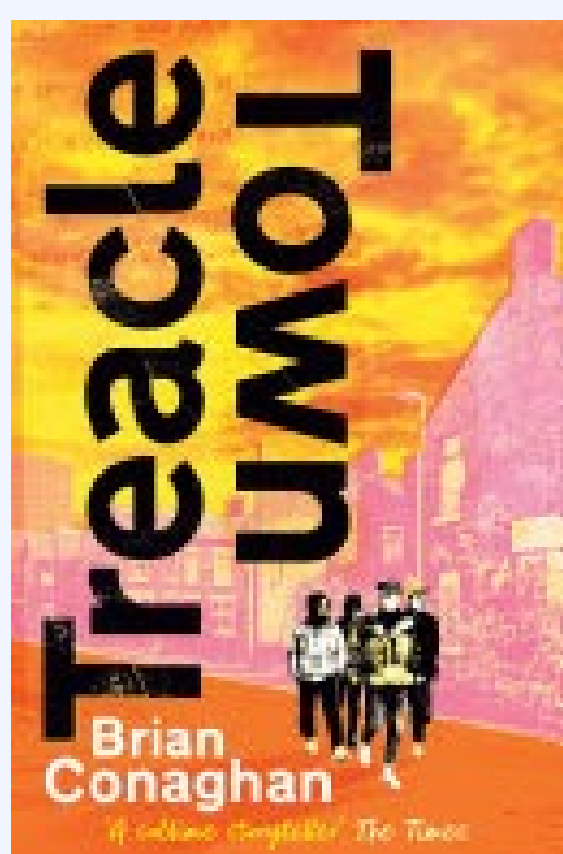
We pick our favourites from the shortlist below for both younger and older readers.



Multi-award-winning poet and writer Matt Goodfellow is shortlisted for **The Final Year**, a 'lyrical and poetic' verse novel about change and adaptation where a young boy's love of reading and writing is encouraged by a teacher as a way to process anger and find his voice. The judges highlighted 'powerful' and empathetic characterisation in a story that was both 'heartbreaking' and 'joyful.' Suitable for younger readers.



Secondary school teacher Luke Palmer has been shortlisted for his 'real, authentic and raw' young adult novel **Play**, a story of disaffected youth, friendship and peer pressure as four boys navigate society's expectations of what it means to be a man. Suitable for younger readers.



This 'highly authentic and realistic' story explores poverty and lack of opportunity as a teenage boy embraces slam poetry to escape gang violence and secure a hopeful future, with dialect conveying 'a strong sense of place' to help immerse the readers. Suitable for older readers.



The  
**Carnegies**