

## **CHS Library Newsletter – Issue 49**

*“Loving God, Caring For Each Other and Achieving Excellence”*

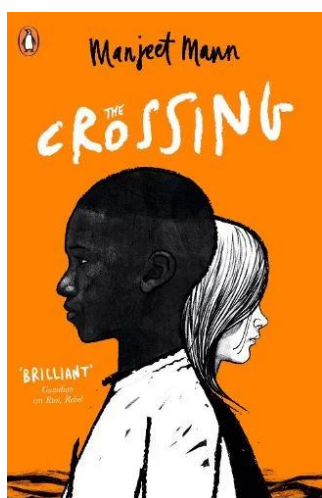
Welcome to issue 49 of the CHS Library Newsletter. May was home to Mental Health Awareness Week and next month we are looking forward to Pride Month, Empathy Day and Refugee Week. You can find lots of great reading recommendations and resources around these topics within this issue. Don't forget to check out Sora where a new collection of great books has just landed. I do hope that you enjoy this issue and wishing you a wonderful peaceful half term break.

### **Featured Book Reviews**

#### **The Crossing – Manjeet Mann**

**Fiction/Real Life/Refugees/Bereavement/Family**

**Suitable for age 12+**



*The sea carries our pain. The stars carry our future.*

Natalie's world is falling apart. She's just lost her mum and her brother marches the streets of Dover full of hate and anger. Swimming is her only refuge.

Sammy has fled his home and family in Eritrea for the chance of a new life in Europe. Every step he takes on his journey is a step into an unknown and unwelcoming future.

A twist of fate brings them together and gives them both hope. But is hope enough to mend a broken world?

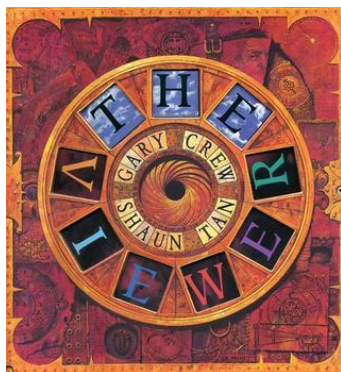
This book is featured in our new 'Teacher/Student VLOG created by our student book council the 'Novellas'. You can view the VLOG here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zDD1o7nQUdQ>

Find it in the school library or on Sora here  
<https://bit.ly/3WFI1SISora>

#### **The Viewer – Shaun Tan**

**Fiction/Horror/Mystery/History**

**Suitable for age 11+**



This is a beautiful picture book. This author is famous for his picture books and this is another example of a good picture book from him. I like this story because it has a very good ending, but I won't spoil it for you. The main character is a boy called Tristan who is about the same as age me. He likes to go to recycle centers or dumps and explore. One day he found an object he was extremely interested in and this led to some brilliant twists and turns in the story. I would recommend this book for those children who like adventure and mystery stories. Although it is a picture book, the story line is for older children. I think this is for children between 9-13 years old.

**Thanks to Jadan (Aged 11) at Beal Vale Primary School for this wonderful book review.**

## Manjeet Mann – Author Visit

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of April we were visited by award winning writer Manjeet Mann, author of verse novels *Run Rebel* and *The Crossing* (featured above). Manjeet is a fabulous diverse writer and actor who writes about different cultures, empathy, bullying and very real-life issues such as the ongoing refugee crisis. Manjeet is also the founder of *Run the World* charity – an organisation that works with women and girls from marginalized backgrounds and helps to empower them through sport and storytelling. Manjeet spoke with our year 8, 9 and 10, she talked to students about what inspires her stories, engaging and encouraging creative writing and the benefits that reading brings whilst encouraging our young people to follow their dreams. Students had the opportunity to ask questions about Manjeet's life and career. Thanks to Manjeet for your fantastic visit.



## Empathy Day 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023

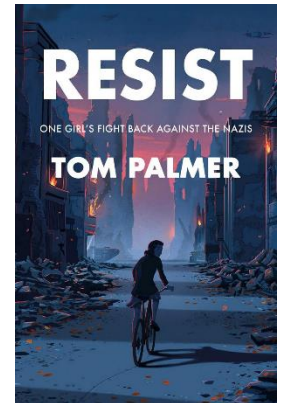
Empathy Day falls on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June and is aimed to inspire young people to learn more about empathy by having transformational experiences through reading and stories. Our Year 7 will be putting empathy into action through our **#WriteaSmile** campaign. They will be writing positive messages of encouragement and kindness which will be given to new year 7 students joining us in September during their 'Borough Transfer Day' in July. I have detailed some great 'Reading for Empathy' books below available on Sora and you can find out more information on the Empathy Lab and more book recommendations here. <https://www.empathylab.uk/>





## Refugee Week – 19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> June

Refugee Week is a UK-wide festival celebrating the contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees and people seeking sanctuary, the theme this year is 'Compassion'. The National Literacy Trust is working with award winning author **Tom Palmer** (who visited CHS last year) to produce free resources including a story to help schools focus on Refugee Week. You can find the resources here <https://literacytrust.org.uk/resources/refugee-week/> along with book recommendations below some of which you can find on Sora.



## #WriteaSmile Postcard Project

Our #WriteaSmile postcard project is going from strength to strength. This week, CHS staff wrote #WriteaSmile postcards and letters to our year 11 students. They were filled with wonderful messages of encouragement and positivity to help give them confidence for their future paths. Every year 11 student received a letter or card during their leavers Valedictory service, and we wish them all the very best!



## Competition Time – Name the Book Box

We recently launched our Free Book Box, offering free books to students who may not want to visit the library but do want to read. It is situated within the grounds of the school and students can take a book and keep it totally free. We are looking for a catchy name for our Book Box and so we are asking students to create a name. For a chance to win a copy of **Resist by Tom Palmer** featured in our Refugee piece submit your name by Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June to Mrs Cullen [c.cullen@cromptonhouse.org](mailto:c.cullen@cromptonhouse.org)



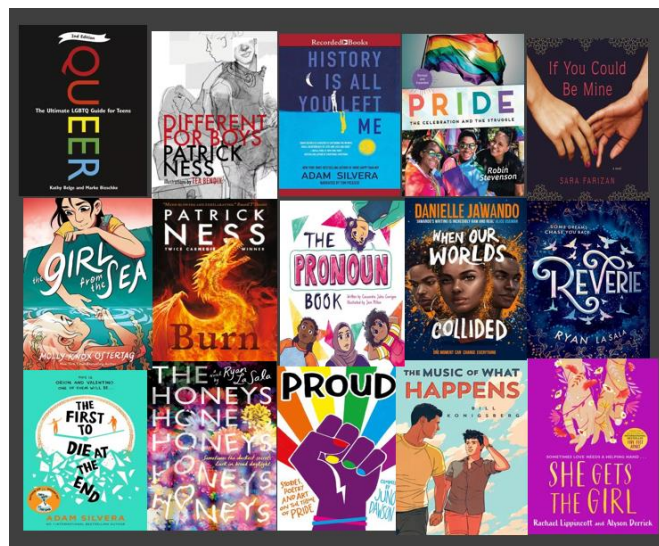
## Sora Update

Half term is upon us, a fabulous time to kick back and read a great book or 5! A reminder that Sora is our totally free online library packed full of over 3000 e and audio books for our students to use. Sora have just added over 200 new books from comic books to classics, horror to romance, sport to Ukrainian titles and over 150 Manga titles, there really is something for everyone. You can find a reminder on how to log onto to Sora on our school website here <https://bit.ly/429sGtiSoraLogOn> For more information contact me on [c.cullen@cromptonhouse.org](mailto:c.cullen@cromptonhouse.org)



## Books to read to support Pride Month,

So many exciting activities happening in June, Empathy Day, Refugee Week and of course June is also Pride Month. Sora has a huge collection of over 100 books to celebrate Pride Month, I have included a selection below.



## Great websites and Information

- Empathy Lab for 'Empathy Day' <https://www.empathylab.uk/>
- Book Trust is a fabulous website full of reading related resources and activities <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/>
- National Literacy Trust have some great information, activities, and a competition for younger readers <https://literacytrust.org.uk/>
- The Reading Agency developed the 'Reading Well' initiative which is a selection of books chosen by health officials helping young people to manage health and wellbeing including bullying. You can find out more about the title <https://readingagency.org.uk/> but we do have some of these titles in the school library.



- Sora our online E and Audio Book free library over 3000 e and audio books to choose from. More information about Sora <https://fast.wistia.net/embed/iframe/x1crca6t1n?videoFoam=true>



## [Share Your Literacy Activities with Me!](#)

Share your book reviews, activities, artistic creations, or any other literacy related ideas, I would love to see them. You can contact/tweet me and email reviews etc. on the details below. Happy reading.

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Twitter: @CLearningzone #CHSFamilyReads #WriteaSmile**

