

The yoto 
Carnegies

THE ST. BEDE'S LITERARY CRITICS SHADOWING GROUP MAGAZINE

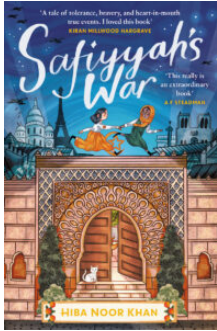
JOIN IN THE CONVERSATION...

#YotoCarnegies24 | YOTOCARNEGIES.CO.UK



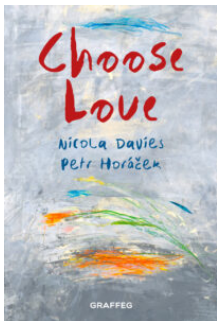
THE ST. BEDE'S LITERARY CRITICS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



“`Safiyyah’s War` was a brilliant book showing the perspective of the Muslims during World War II and not only did I find it a thrill to read but it gave me a different view on a subject I had learnt in the past. Wrapping a detailed familiar historical event into a simple but effective story is just amazing. I would rate this book a 8/10.”

- Margarida



“`Choose Love` was a powerful, emotive book and I definitely enjoyed it. From the cleverly written poems to the bold illustrations it definitely conveyed an important image about refugees a topic that we usually don’t understand in such a deep way. I loved that it wasn’t a long read rather a short one showing that even the most important of subjects can be shown in the simplest way. I would rate this book a 8/10.”

- Margarida

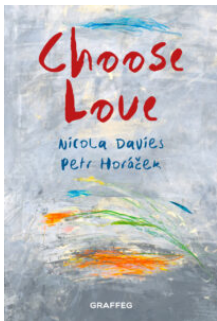
THE ST. BEDE'S LITERARY CRITICS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



“I was surprised when I read this book as I was told not to read it as it was super corny and unenjoyable but to my surprise it was, for me, the best Carnegie book as it is super fun and every time I read it I would get into trouble as I laugh so much. If others are telling you not to read this book, DO NOT listen to them.”

- Callum

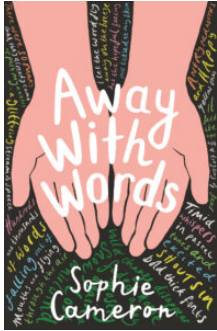


“I liked how `Choose Love` was displayed with paintings which were meant to represent the pain going on around the world. I liked how it brought awareness to the difficulties people face around the world, like refugees. However, I didn't really like the way the book was set out because I, personally, found it quite hard to understand. Overall, I thought this book had such an important message to spread and that some of the poems were really heart-breaking to hear about the struggles, However, I found it quite hard to follow and understand, although the notes helped a lot.”

- Aisling

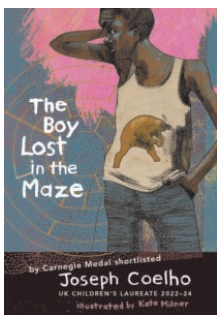
THE ST. BEDE'S LITERARY CRITICS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



“`Away With Words` is about a girl who moves from Spain to England and doesn't speak much, so she befriends someone with selective mutism. This book displays friendship and that you don't always need to speak to communicate. I like how it brings awareness from people with selective mutism. However, personally, I didn't think it had much of a plot. Overall, this book was very positive and brought awareness to something not very commonly talked about, however, it didn't have much plot to it.”

- Aisling



“`The Boy Lost In The Maze` is one big metaphor. It shows the similarity between Theseus and the Minotaur that I have never thought of before. They are just two boys searching for their fathers and that they really didn't do anything wrong, they were just searching. I also liked how Theo hears the story of Theseus and the Minotaur and sees the similarities and how they aren't really that similar. Overall, this book was an emotional journey of 3 boys searching for their fathers.”

- Aisling

THE ST. BEDE'S LITERARY CRITICS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS

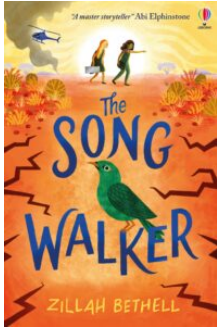


“`Steady For This` is a very emotional journey. At the start, Shaun worries about his crush and his popularity but towards the end he starts to worry more about his life and keeping his house and best friend than anything else. I liked how he really started to understand the meaning of his lyrics and that being a rapper was not all about fame and money, which made him win raptology. I liked that he happened to meet Siobhan when he really needed a friend. At the start, I wasn't sure that the story was really going anywhere, but towards the end I think he become more aware of who he needed be. Overall, I think the book was good towards the end, however, it dragged on and there was a slow start. Although, I did enjoy it more than I thought I would.”

- Aisling

THE ST. BEDE'S LITERARY CRITICS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS

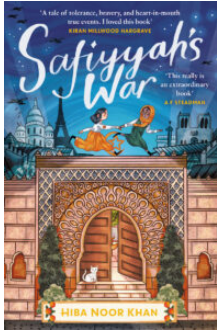


“I really liked how in the song walker everyone was a spirit, and that it really wasn't real, which I would not have suspected when I first started reading it. I really liked the fact that you had to figure out, along with her, who she really was. Throughout the book, you had to wait to see what was going to happen, as it was quite hard to imagine what could happen. I really like how the story introduces the Aboriginal culture and language because it is very intriguing to learn about the native culture. Overall, the book was very interesting and different to read, and I enjoyed the fact that you didn't really know what was coming next.”

- Aisling

THE ST. BEDE'S LITERARY CRITICS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS

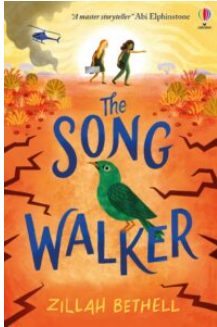


“Safiyyah’s War` was such a good book because it showed the kindness of some of the people to the Jews during WW2. Even though they knew they would be severely punished and arrested, they still continued to help people in need. I loved Safiyyah because she was such a kind and brave character. Throughout the book, she displayed heroism, by helping the people to safety and insisting that she help even though she was in great danger if she did. She was also an extremely smart character. She figured out most of what her father was doing and also memorised the way through the catacombs. She was extremely heroic throughout the story and wasn’t afraid of anything. She even stole from the soldiers so she could comfort her friend and help him. In addition, I thought it was heart-breaking that his life work was destroyed. Overall, I thought the book was a brave and heroic tale.”

- Aisling

THE ST. BEDE'S LITERARY CRITICS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS

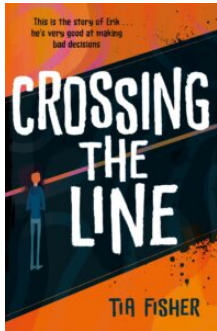


“By just the title I was immediately intrigued and as I borrowed the book out of my brilliant school library I wondered how I would finish it in less than a week and without noticing it I did. It was an amazing and heartfelt book about a city girl lost in the Australian outback with no clue about who she is not even her name. But throughout the book she has various flashbacks that give her short snippets about who she was and how she ended up there. As I read this book, it made me feel as if I were there imagining the flash backs not knowing who I was and as it was revealed I started to piece things together. I could really sympathise with the main characters because they were my age and that made me feel as if I were in `The Song Walker`. Three words to summarise this story would be: Emotional, Mysterious and Beautiful.”

- Margarida

THE ST. BEDE'S LITERARY CRITICS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS

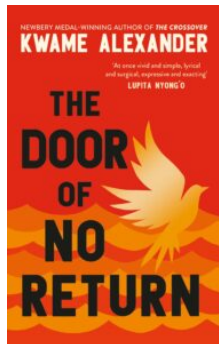


“`Crossing the Line` was a very enlightening book. The book told us that the children who do end up doing business with drugs and gangs might have an interior motive or something going on. This really brings perspective to the fact that you have no idea what people are going through and that you should never judge a book by its cover. Erik only did it so that he could get money for his mother and every time he wanted to get out of the situation, he couldn't because he felt he owed his mother and wanted to help his family. Not only that, but after his father's death and the situation with his mother and the twins, he felt he needed to get out of the house, so he turned to the wrong people and got caught in a situation that he could not easily get out of. I really liked the character who played his best friend, because no matter how much Erik hurt him, he always defended him and ended up helping him get a way out of there, as well as his father who was also very supportive. Overall, I liked this book because it shows that people make mistakes and that you never know what people are going through.”

- Aisling

THE ST. BEDE'S LITERARY CRITICS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



“I really liked how they showed the emotion throughout the story. It went from a young boy in competition with his cousin and ends with him saving his cousin, showing that family really is important. Kofi really understood the importance of family by the end of the story because he had suffered so much, the death of his brother and friends. I really liked how the author showed the emotional torture that the slaves went through, showing the pains of extremely young children and to how horrible it really was for them in that time and the pain of being taken away from your family. The book showed the range of emotions through Kofi and showed how heartbroken he was when his brother died. Towards the end, I thought that Kofi started to understand that he had taken advantage of his family and didn't understand the importance of family until too late. Until, he ended up saving his cousin. I was satisfied with this ending, even though I know that they probably would not have made it back to safety, it was heart-warming to see Kofi understand that family were the most important thing and matured to see that childish competition shouldn't get in the way of your relationship with your family. I feel like he realised that his life before was far away and that the competition with his cousin just seemed childish, because he had suffered so much and missed his family. I also really loved the soldier who tried to help them, because even though he knew he would suffer, he realised that the children didn't deserve it at all and tried to free them. Overall, I really liked the book because it was very emotional and showed the importance of family.”

- Aisling

THE ST. BEDE'S LITERARY CRITICS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



“I was a bit worried when I first started reading "Steady For This" as I had heard mixed opinions about it from my friends, however I really liked this book and I think it's one of the best ones on the shortlist this year. While Growls` stupidity was a little annoying at first, I soon really warmed up to him as the main character and I became really engaged in his story.

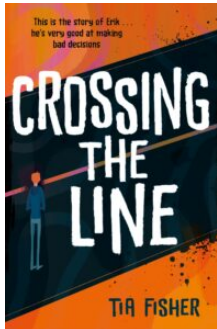
One of the main things I enjoyed about this book is Growls` relationships with his family and his friends. Growls and Shanks` friendship was really sweet and I liked seeing how Growls` and Siobhan`s relationship developed throughout the book, I really didn`t think it was going to go that well after their hilarious first meeting.

The humour in "Steady For This" was another highlight for me - I laughed so many times while reading it, Growls kept getting into the most ridiculous situations! I also like the more serious bits of the book as I think they told important messages, and I think the end, when Growls won the rapping competition, was really empowering and a great end to an incredible book.”

- Jozefinka

THE ST. BEDE'S LITERARY CRITICS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



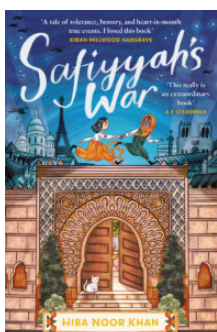
“Eric, the protagonist, gets peer pressured into making bad decisions. I found the gritty realism of this book challenging to read. I thought that Tia Fisher did really well at giving all the characters a realistic background and emotions that made sense within the story. Overall I quite liked this book 7/10.”

- Alice



“This book focuses on themes of friendship, family struggles and growing up. Some sections are quite emotional. I enjoyed aspects of the book but overall it didn't capture my interest as much as I had hoped. Some of the characters felt under developed and the plotting didn't appeal to me. Overall I rate this a 6/10”

- Alice

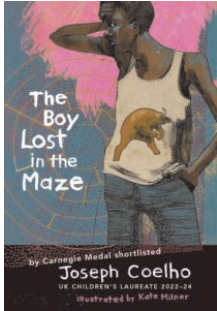


“This book blew me away! Its description of Safiyyah's surroundings are spectacular. The story is so indulging and the ending was and is amazing. I recommend this to any reader who enjoys mystery.”

- Callum

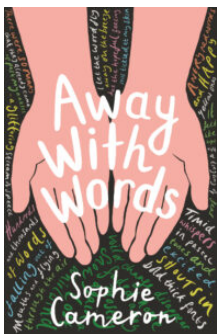
THE ST. BEDE'S LITERARY CRITICS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



“The beginning of ‘The Boy Lost In The Maze` is very hard to follow as it keeps switching from Theo to Theseus. As the book progresses, it gets easier to understand and follow but gets somewhat confusing when Theo call his teacher Sir and Mr Alton. I liked how the story of Theseus linked with the story of Theo in a sense of them both trying to find their fathers.”

- Lucia

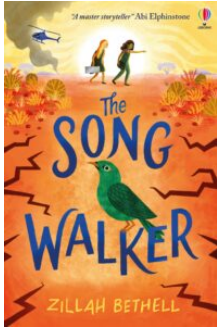


“This book was heartfelt and engaging. It effectively comments on the struggles faced by those who move countries and explores selective mutism, in a believable day to day setting. I found the use of lines in place of words effective because they help portray the confusion a language barrier provides. Sophie Cameron’s use of words as physical objects enhanced the book and made it unique. My favourite character was Natalie because she evolved throughout the story. Overall, I enjoyed reading Away With Words.”

- Isabelle

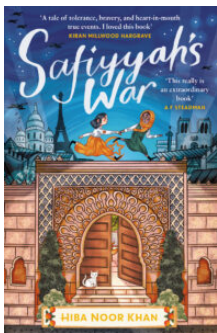
THE ST. BEDE'S LITERARY CRITICS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



“I thought that this was a very strong book. I thought that the plot was strong and the characters were good, and I especially liked the ending of the book. For me, this was my favourite non-young adult book.”

- Alex



“`Safiyah's War` is a beautiful book which talks about what Paris was like during the occupation in WW2. The main themes running all through the book are friendship, bravery, family and love. The way the author has expressed these themes all the way through is amazing and it makes the whole book all the more heartwarming.”

- Lena

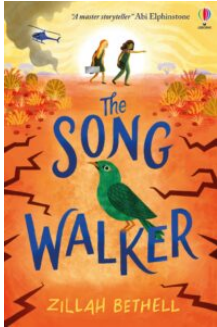


“`Steady for This` was hard to get into at first and it was a difficult read but as I neared the end it became a lot better and I really enjoyed it. I found it a bit hard to relate to the character at first but by the end I completely understood what he was going through.”

- Roisin

THE ST. BEDE'S LITERARY CRITICS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



“I really liked ‘The Song Walker’. I found it easy to read and it was hard to put it down. The author reveals parts about the mysterious girl’s past throughout the book which makes it interesting to read. This a great addition to the Carnegie books.”

- Roisin

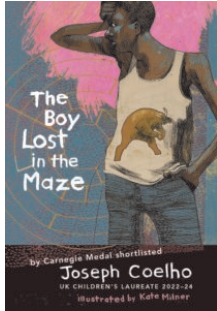


“‘Steady For This’ was a hilarious read throughout the entire book. I loved the aspect of confidence and comebacks and the raps were quirky and comical. Furthermore, I really liked how much heart this book had and how modern this novel was. However, I do think that, as funny as it was, it maybe did not portray the solemnity of eviction and the serious and life-changing deal that it is. For me, I think that the humour overtook how big of an issue it is and did not address it properly. Overall, a laugh-out-loud read and I quite enjoyed it.”

- Cianna

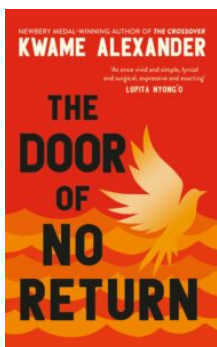
THE ST. BEDE'S LITERARY CRITICS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



“The Boy Lost In The Maze` was overall a book relating to the well-known Greek myth of ‘Theseus And The Minotaur’. Personally, I thought that there were some great thoughts and concepts in this book, but at times was confusing when switching between Theo and Theseus. As well as this, it was written out in a way that was quite difficult to follow due to the tabs on a few pages instructing readers to go back and re-read a section. In brief, I think the author had some good ideas, but they were not conveyed very well.”

- Cianna

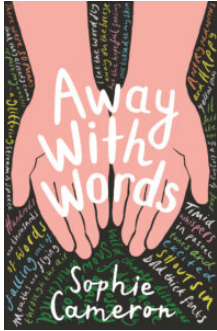


“The book itself was great. The way the book`s words were portrayed were wonderful and overall it was a great book. My main and only issue with it was that the ending felt a bit ambiguous for me , I believe the book could benefit with a final chapter just to explain how things actually ended instead of leaving us in the dark. Overall the book was a masterpiece and if it were not for that one issue , it would also be perfect.”

- Aeola

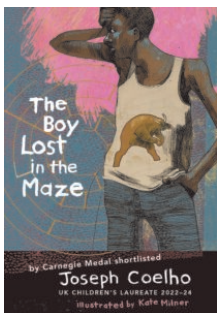
THE ST. BEDE'S LITERARY CRITICS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



“I think the book was a great portrayal of mutism and what its like moving to a different country. It was a beautifully crafted book however at times it was a bit difficult to tell the difference between the people speaking, the words they were picking up and the actual words of the book. The book could also benefit with a prologue just to properly explain how the world works and stuff like that. The way that the book was written at the end and how they resolved the issue also felt a bit iffy to me. Overall the book was wonderful blend of sad and happy.”

- Aeola

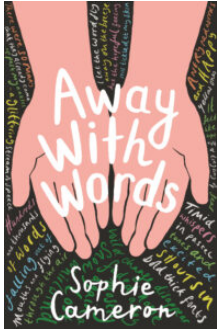


“I personally thought the book was a great read however I really would have liked it if you could actually explore the other options instead of them just ending up in a dead end or death. I also think the ending was really good and the storytelling was unique. I found the layout of the book was unique but I do believe a sequel or a final chapter just to explain what ends up happening to him would have been good. Overall the book was a great read and I thoroughly enjoyed reading it”

- Aeola

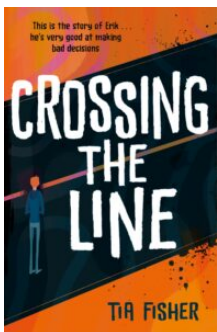
THE ST. BEDE'S LITERARY CRITICS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



“I really loved `Away with Words`. When I first started reading, I did find the main character insufferable; she didn't see how lovely her new home was and only focused on the negative. However, because of her friendship with Natalie she really grew and I found that inspiring. The collected word poems were wonderfully insightful and overall I'd give it a 8.5/10.”

- Alice

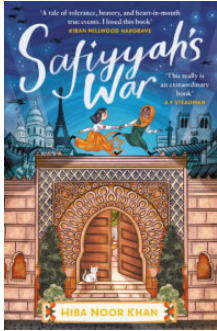


““Crossing the Line” was a powerful and emotional book, focusing on the effects of bullying. This book was insightful and raised awareness of how bullying can lead to negative consequences. This book also shows single parenting and the challenges that single mothers face. This represents an important aspect of society. Overall, I found this book meaningful because although it was depressing, it told a unique and valuable message.”

- Sophia

THE ST. BEDE'S LITERARY CRITICS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS

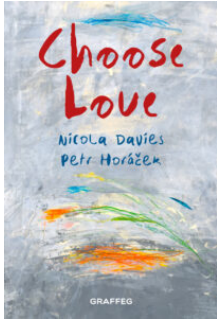


“‘Safiyyah’s War’ showed the roughness of Nazi soldiers (mainly towards Jews) during WW2. I loved it when the author describes how the father is part of the French Resistance and how Safiyyah wanted to join. I also love when the reader finds out that the father helps to smuggle Jews out of Paris using underground tunnels. When the author writes of how a Jewish girl was found and that girl turned out to be Safiyyah’s friend, it was very emotional. Hana, a Jew, would barely ever talk since she was traumatised by the Nazi soldiers. The author was able to take the reader back in time, in the middle of a terrible war, and also to communicate the suffering the Jews went through, and the love that was shown even at the darkest times.”

- Lucia

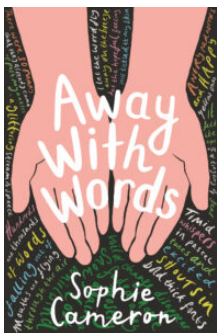
THE ST. BEDE'S LITERARY CRITICS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



“`Choose Love` is a very special book that really surprised me. It is a book of poems together with beautiful paintings. The poems are all about a journey of a refugee, and describe the refugee`s life from when the evil comes into their home through to the fear of the abandonment of their land to the arrival to the new place. It was sad at times and it made me think of all the refugees and wars happening in the world now. The art is also very inspirational and shows, with very few brushworks, the sadness, the fear, but also the hope and joy of the refugees.”

- Lucia

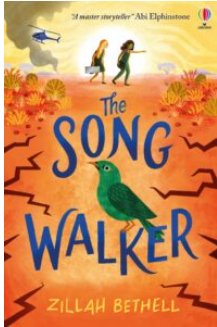


“`Away With Words` is a very sweet book. It talks about how a friendship grew without needing to speak all the time and how sitting in silence can bring beautiful things too. It is also very clever as the author describes how the words "fall out" of the characters` mouths and they can pick them up and hold them. I also found it interesting how the author describes how Natalie showed Gala how to save the words and preserve them.”

- Lucia

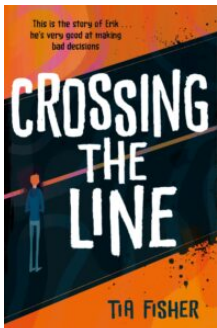
THE ST. BEDE'S LITERARY CRITICS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



“I think that "The Song Walker" is an amazing book. Telling the story of the friendship of the girls in the Australian desert is what makes it a wonderful story. I was very surprised about the plot twist that one of the character was a spirit the whole time in the book. This is my favourite book so far, I give this 10/10.”

- Chloe

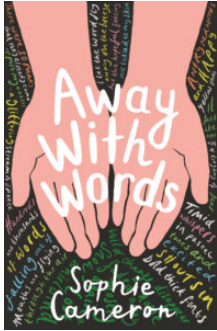


“Fantastic!!!!!!!!!!!! I give this book 6/10 because it is in my top three books so far. I really recommend this book because I really get to understand about drugs and drug sellers . And I really like that Erik tries to fix his problems about it.”

- Chloe

THE ST. BEDE'S LITERARY CRITICS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS

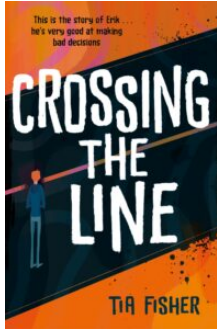


"Away With Words" was a really enjoyable book for me, if a little confusing at first. When I first started reading it I didn't know if the words appearing were just a metaphor or if it was really happening, which confused me a bit though I think it made the story really unique and interesting. I also liked the development of Natalie and Gala's friendship and Gala's relationship with her family throughout the book. However, I thought the plot of the story was a bit predictable, as I figured out who was writing the nasty poems nearly as soon as it started happening (but I still enjoyed it). I think the book could be improved by making it a bit longer and by having a foreword that explains that words physically appear out of people's mouths when they talk, as I would appreciate the extra worldbuilding and it would help me be less confused. Overall I'd probably say this this book is a solid 8.5/10"

- Jozefinka

THE ST. BEDE'S LITERARY CRITICS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



“I really enjoyed reading "Crossing the Line". Although I haven't experienced most of the challenges Erik goes through, I could find myself really empathising with him and understanding the decisions he was making because of his circumstances.

My favourite parts of the book were the pages where concrete poetry was used. I especially liked the pages with the boxes made of words. I'd probably rate this book 9/10. It had a bit of a slow start but after the first 30 pages I really got into it.”

- Jozefinka

THE ST. BEDE'S LITERARY CRITICS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS

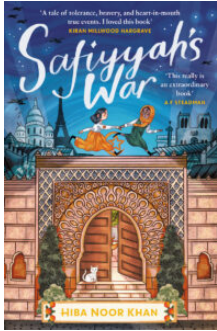


“‘Steady For This’ was an entertaining and enjoyable read. Although I was unconvinced by the start, the end was exceptionally well written. By exploring peer pressure, cyber bullying and mental health, this book examines relevant and important issues. In addition, this book considers relationships between friends and family. The character of Shanks helps portray deep and complex friendships and the positive aspects of friends. I personally love this book because I often choose not to read books intended to be funny but this book contains comical and amusing moments. Overall, I enjoyed reading this book because of its humorous story and thought-provoking concepts.”

- Sophia

THE ST. BEDE'S LITERARY CRITICS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS

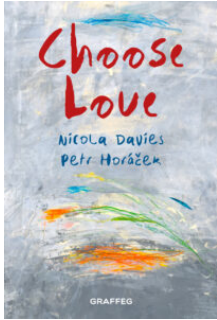


“‘Safiyyah’s War’ was particularly enjoyable. Although WW2 has been a common theme for writers, ‘Safiyyah’s War’ was unique because it explored Muslim influences in WW2 which is much less common. Additionally, unlike other books, it shows the reader life behind the trenches and shows the power of those who were considered unable to fight. Haba Noor Khan uses butterflies to symbolise hope throughout the story and explores the theme of trust effectively. A key element of the story was relationships, particularly with friends. For example, when Safiyyah loses Isabelle, Haba Noor Khan effectively considers loss and separation. This book also has historical significance and contributes to education on the horrors of war. Overall, I have really enjoyed reading this book as it was entertaining, and celebrated the human characteristics of kindness and compassion for others.”

- Sophia

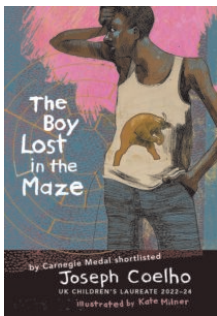
THE ST. BEDE'S LITERARY CRITICS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



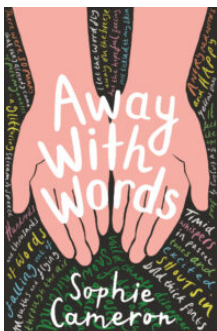
“I enjoyed ‘Choose Love’. I found it thought provoking and the message it conveys is so beautiful and meaningful. Although I enjoyed the content, some of the verse felt really forced. It is an emotional read and I would rate it 6/10.”

- Alice



“I did not enjoy this book as much as I hoped. Although the messages conveyed were well thought out, I found the story to be super jumpy and it was difficult to differentiate between Theo and Theseus. It’s almost impossible to understand unless you have a decent knowledge of Greek mythology. However, I did enjoy the take on the Minotaur’s life and abandonment. So overall I would not recommend and would rate it a 3/10.”

- Alice



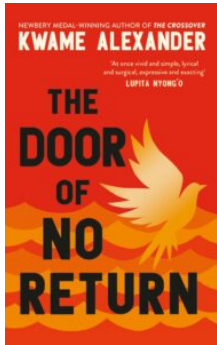
“Away With Words

This book showed the importance of friendship. I enjoyed it and recommend it to other readers.”

- Callum

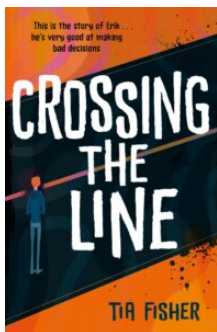
THE ST. BEDE'S LITERARY CRITICS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



“`The Door Of No Return` has very subtle hints of sexual assault throughout the book showing the reality of what happens in the world. I thought this book was interesting since it talked about African tribes and their rituals/ ways of living. At times it was sad since most characters you created a connection with die but overall, it was a very good read.”

- Lucia

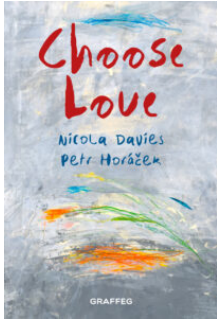


“`Crossing The Line` is a book that takes the reader into the world of drug gangs and how harmful being a drug dealer can be. The choice of using poetry adds an aspect of depth in the way you read the book. It allows the reader to create a connection with the characters. I really liked the way the book ended since it symbolises that if you do not feel safe there are always people that will help you no matter the situation.”

- Lucia

THE ST. BEDE'S LITERARY CRITICS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS

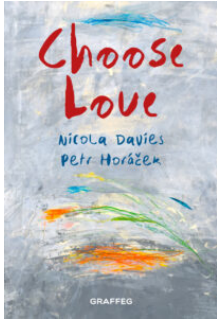


“This book is absolutely fantastic. It portrays so many different experiences and emotions throughout the book and I loved the illustrations as well especially as they didn't show exactly what was in the writing. My favourite poem was `Mathematics` because on the page all we can see are numbers but as you read and think, you know that you will never truly understand the trauma all those people went through.”

- Hannah

THE ST. BEDE'S LITERARY CRITICS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS

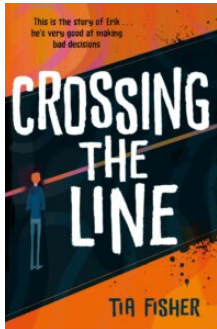


“‘Choose Love’ is a captivating read; the book explains the concept of refugees and the trauma they had to endure. Furthermore, the book has a heartbreaking reality that the author has managed to get across extremely effectively. To elaborate on this, the way Nicola Davies has decided to write this book makes the reader increasingly intrigued at the mysterious and unclear storyline as they venture further into the book. As well as this, there are phenomenal abstract pieces of artwork that accompany the poetry and have a deep meaning even though it is not exactly obvious at first. ‘Choose Love’ is one of my favourite books so far due to the way it made me look at history from a different perspective.”

- Cianna

THE ST. BEDE'S LITERARY CRITICS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



“Crossing The Line is one of the few books that I truly adore. The unique patterns of the words on the pages made it enjoyable to read. Erik was a well written character and his story was interesting. Tia Fisher managed to make me cry, laugh and scream all at the same time. She is an incredible authority and I would like to read more of her books. Overall, Crossing The Line is a beautiful book that I will hopefully read again and will definitely recommend to friends and family.”

- Kitty

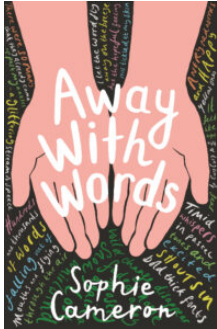


“`Steady For It` was a good book. I enjoyed how the author creates a relationship between the reader and Shaun as he writes as if Shaun was speaking to us and letting us see his thoughts. It is a very good book that deals with quite heavy subjects yet Nathanael Lessor manages to create a safe atmosphere while writing about them. Overall, it was a good book that I enjoyed reading.”

- Kitty

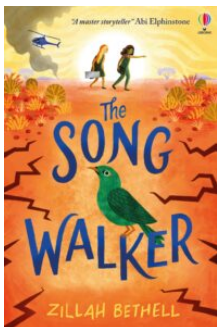
THE ST. BEDE'S LITERARY CRITICS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



“I really liked `Away With Words`. I think the way that Sophie Cameron subtly improved Gala`s range of language provided a connection between the reader and Gala. It is a really good book that shows the impact that words or even actions have on people. Gala and Natalie are likeable characters who have imperfections but show us how to overcome them. Overall, it is a really good book that I would like to read again.”

- Kitty

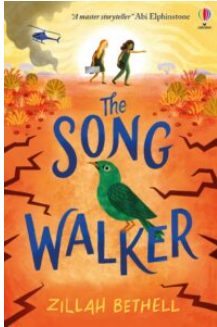


“I absolutely loved the `The Song Walker` as I felt excited and curious throughout the book! I also enjoyed that the author did not say the girl`s name until the end. The plot twist was very unexpected at the end which left me in shock afterwards. I definitely will not be forgetting this book!”

- Hannah

THE ST. BEDE'S LITERARY CRITICS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS

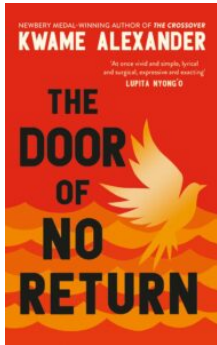


“This story used descriptions to build a wonderful image for the reader. Throughout the book the author uses words from an aboriginal language and these words give it context and help the readers to understand Tarni’s culture better. The plot was entertaining and well paced. Relationships between the characters were complex and carefully forged. The character of Sienna evolved throughout the book as she remembered her past. For this reason she was my favourite character. The plot twist at the end was astonishing and provoked questions. Towards the end, Zillah Bethell effectively portrays the importance of music and our relationship with our family as we hear that Tarni is searching for her sister. The story explores important ideas such as identity, the impacts of memory loss and the beliefs of other cultures and how we treat them.”

- Isabelle

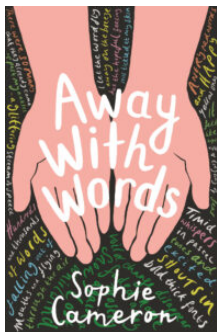
THE ST. BEDE'S LITERARY CRITICS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



“I loved `The Door Of No Return`. I enjoyed the verse style and think it worked really well. My only critique is how abrupt the book ended, I would love a second novel or some kind of continuation. It’s a great book but it’s not suited to younger readers because of the violent and descriptive language. In all I give this book an 8/10 because of how emotionally attached I was to the characters by the end.”

- Alice

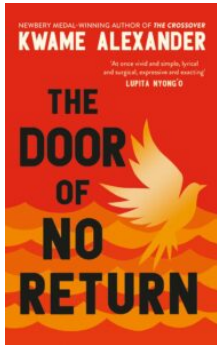


“`Away With Words` was a very enjoyable read. I liked the originality of the idea of words as physical objects, with different colours and shapes. However, I thought the motive to undermine/shun Gala (the main character) was a bit lacklustre.”

- Laurie

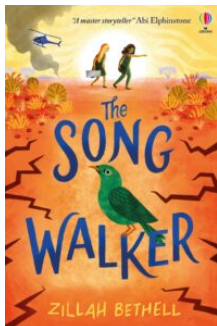
THE ST. BEDE'S LITERARY CRITICS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



“I thought "The Door Of No Return", which is written in verse, was a really powerful book. The setting was really nice and it was eye-opening to view the story in the first person. The only criticism I have is that I thought the book ended too suddenly, so I would have liked there to be an epilogue.”

- Laurie

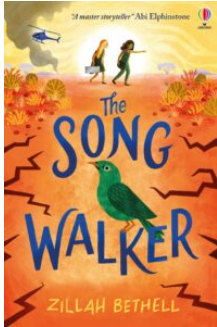


“`The Song Walker` is a very passionate, spiritual, mysterious and captivating read that envelopes the concept of friendship, identity and dealing with grief. The author did a fantastic job at describing the danger and beauty of the outback, whilst relating to grief and it was overall a fantastic book.”

- Cianna

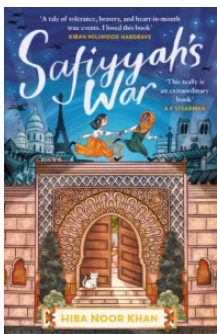
THE ST. BEDE'S LITERARY CRITICS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



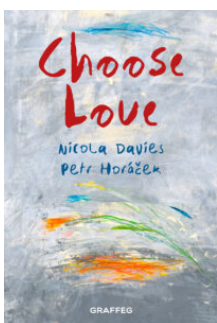
“`The Song Walker` is a captivating book which has amazing plot twists and is always intriguing. In `The Song Walker`, you can feel the characters` feelings and the writer allows for the reader`s imagination to explore the book and characters further. In the first half of the book, it is a very slow read but the second half is very captivating and exciting to read.”

- Lucia



“I think that `Safiyyah`s War` is a really great book and it really makes me think about the wars that happened at the time. I also really liked the character Setti as she was very kind and wise. Furthermore, I always felt hungry reading the descriptions of the oranges.”

- Hannah

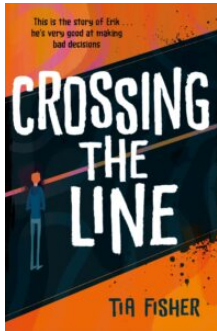


“My favourite book so far is `Choose Love` because each poem has a meaningful and powerful message. Another reason I like it, is that the poems are talking about the people going migrating.”

- Chloe

THE ST. BEDE'S LITERARY CRITICS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS

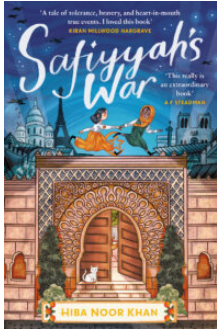


“`Crossing the Line` is an incredibly moving book which tells a story which needs to be told. I enjoyed the poems which could have used a bit more structure and I love the way the writer weaved in a tiny bit of comedy in the right places. I love Ravi’s kindness and that he’s always there for Eric. I found it bleak and scary at lots of points in the book and it made me feel happy that I wasn’t in Eric’s position because I feel it could have happened to anyone. Although I think it’s important that we explore and have happy endings, I would’ve liked to know a bit more about what happened to Eric and whether he was safe in the end. I love the addition of the twins and of Stern Mr R who all added something in their own ways. I didn’t understand what was happening in some of the bits as I thought the poetry was going a bit too fast but overall it was a beautiful book told in a beautiful way which I loved. 8 out of 10 stars.”

- Seb

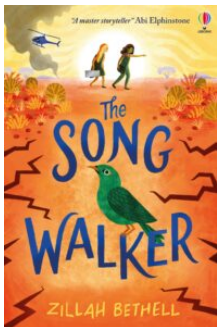
THE ST. BEDE'S LITERARY CRITICS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



“I really liked this book. It was an amazing book that showed courage and bravery that made it hard to stop reading it. I think that Safiyyah is an amazing character and I admire her a lot especially because she stood up for people who needed help.”

- Roisin

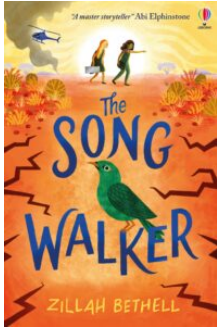


“I loved this book. Its take on religion is something I've never seen before. It's about a young girl who is found in the middle of the Outback with no idea who or where she is. Throughout the book it references ancestors and elders frequently; the culture does not address a dead person by name but by a placeholder term. The ending for me was extremely impactful and changed the way I thought about the book. I loved the detailed description of the landscape and frequently repeated moments ('left, right, left, right'). Overall, this book was brilliant and a strong candidate for the winner.”

- Alice

THE ST. BEDE'S LITERARY CRITICS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



“`The Song Walker` was a good book. Here are some good and bad points from my view.

Bad Points:

The plot could have been simpler.

Good Points:

It had a good plot.

Easy to understand what is happening.

Gives hints through out the book about the ending.

Overall, I really liked `The Song Walker` and think it is a really good book. I would recommend to others.”

- Laila



“This book was amazing and made me laugh lots of times. It also had unexpected moments and twists and turns. Very good highly recommend”

- Jamie

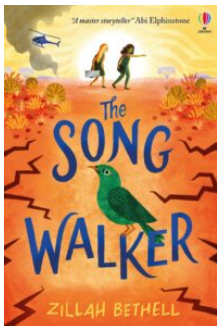
THE ST. BEDE'S LITERARY CRITICS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



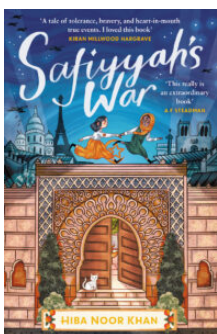
“I really enjoyed this book. It flowed well and you could share the way Growls felt. The rap verses were very good; they made sense, told a story and rhymed most of the time. The jokes made me laugh and it was easy to read and understand. On the whole, I loved it - a really good book - I would recommend.”

- Sophie



“I really liked this book. I think the way Sienna developed throughout the book was great. I think the ending was shocking but I liked how Tarni became an artist and how their friendship progressed through the book.”

- Laura

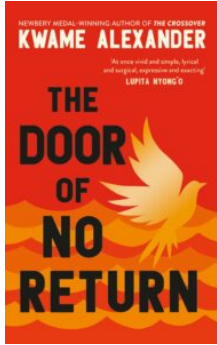


“I liked this book. I think the premise was nice and thought that Safiyyah was amazing. I think the point of the book was important and Safiyyah was brave and kind for protecting and helping anyone who needed it.”

- Laura

THE ST. BEDE'S LITERARY CRITICS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS

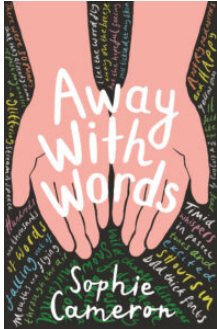


“I thought this book was really good. The way it was written made it a quick read and the poems were easy to understand. I really liked the characters and the way they interacted. Ebo was one of my favourites and I felt bad when Kwasi died. Overall, a very good book.”

- Laura

THE ST. BEDE'S LITERARY CRITICS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS

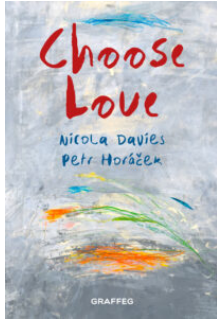


“It was an engaging read, yet simple in structure, and could definitely be enjoyed by younger readers. The plot was clear and easy to understand, following the life of Gala and the friends she makes in her new home. The book also tackles the idea of the value and impact of words, especially in a school environment, using words as physical objects that can be `swept up` or collected. The use of these words highlights the progression of Gala, our antagonist, and her new friend Natalie, and how words can be crafted, but also manipulated into hurtful comments. The book is based in the real world, so physical words did need some justification, which Sophie Cameron did admirably, although the reader does have to just go along with it at points. Over all, `Away With Words` proved to be an enjoyable YA read, and its wholesome story of the progression of Gala and Natalie, who both sometimes struggled to find their words, was truly uplifting.”

- Theo

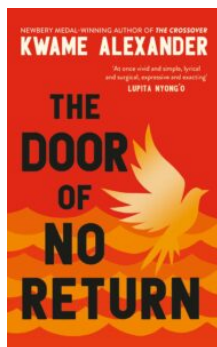
THE ST. BEDE'S LITERARY CRITICS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



“I really enjoyed `Choose Love`. I found it really beautiful and moving. There was such a sense of sadness in every single poem. I especially liked poems like `Unbroken` as they had a small sense of hope. I think that it would have been better to have a few more poems with a little bit more variety. Overall, I think that `Choose Love` tells an amazing story that needs to be told in a beautiful way. 6 out of 10.”

- Seb



“I really liked the door of no return. It was a big book but it read fast as it is written in verse. I love the images at the start which gave a real insight into how they lived in Africa at that time. The description really flowed and I especially love the conversation territory between Amma and Kofi. I did however think that maybe the story went too quickly from a nice time to immediate death and destruction and although this is hard in poetry I would have liked more description. But I did really really like how it all fitted together and the beautiful images that were insinuated by the writer. Overall I really liked The Door of No Return. I would give it 7 out of 10.”

- Seb