

# Congratulations to our Share-A-Story Competition Winners:

Sharon Nwabueze 8R  
Mariam Badr 8A  
Ganeem Kaur Matta 8P  
Jovanna Binory 9R  
Dominic Araba 9R



Our lucky winners will be going on a trip to the BIGGEST library in Europe- The Library of Birmingham!



# Book Reviews by our Winners:

**Title:** The Fault in our Stars

**Author:** John Green



**What is the book about?**

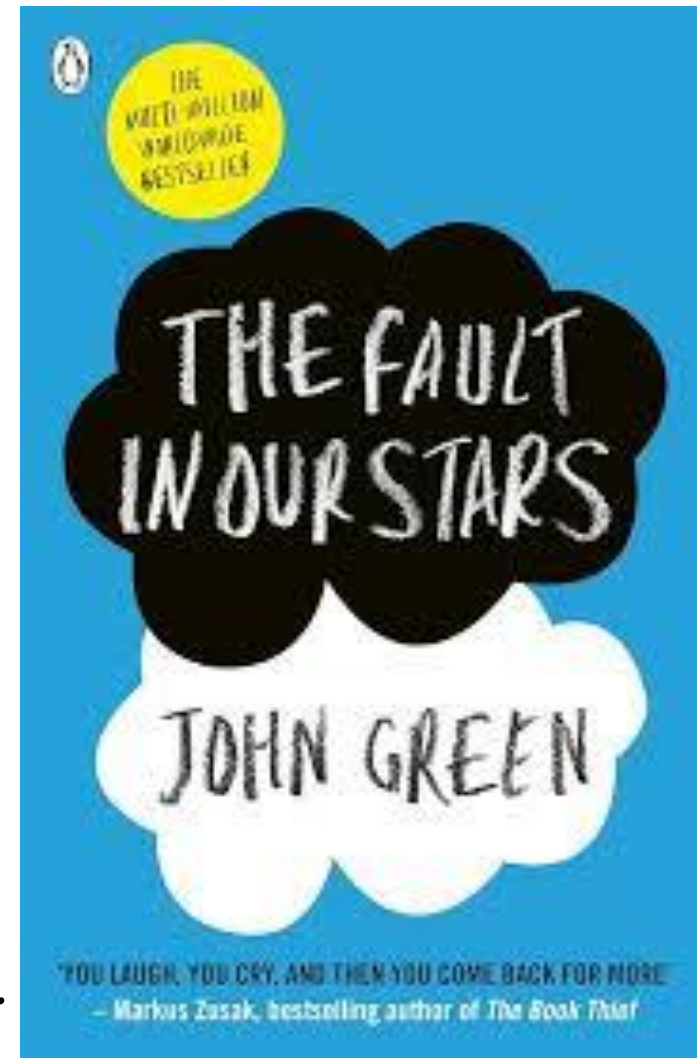
*This book is about a girl with cancer. She joins a mental health support group where she meets Gus, and they both carry the weight of emotions through the novel as their relationship develops.*

**What ages and interests is this book suitable for? Why?**

*To me, this book would be most appealing to teenagers of young adults as they're most interested in love and drama, especially when books have plots which engage the reader to flip more pages.*

**Who would you recommend the book to? Why?**

*I would recommend this book to young adults or just about anyone. The author's purpose was to relay the message of hope and living in the moment.*



**By Jovanna  
Binory (9R)**

# Book Reviews by our Winners:

**Title:** Agency for Scandal

**Author:** Laura Wood



**What is the book about?**

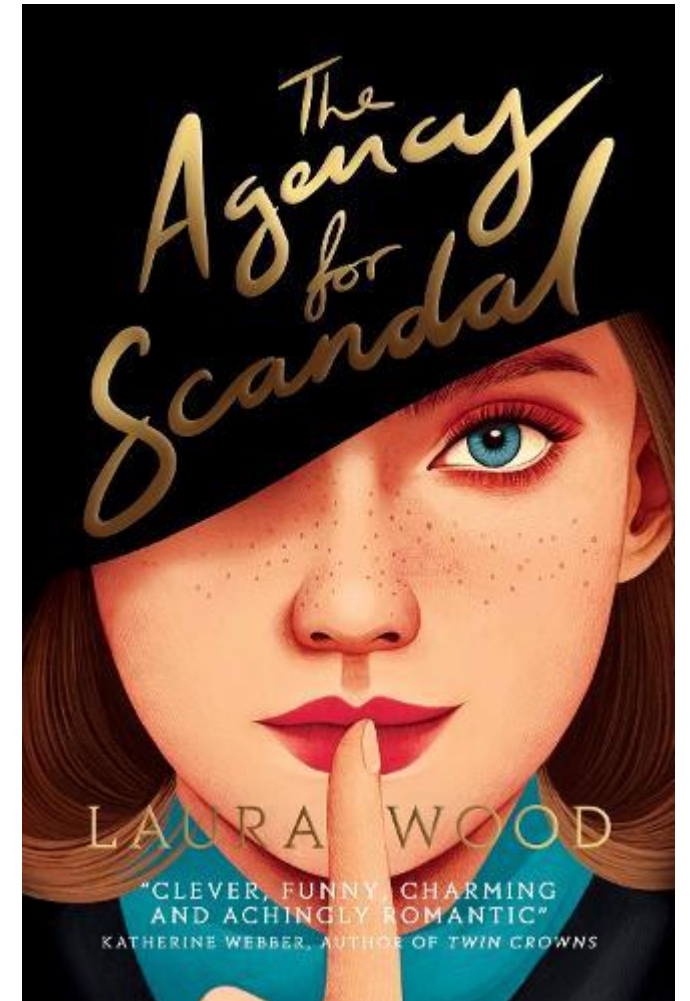
*It is about an agency for women by women. It is based on how women in marriages don't have their own possessions because back in the 1800's all the women's possessions were the mans.*

**What ages and interests is this book suitable for? Why?**

*13 years and above. This is not suitable for younger readers due to the advanced vocabulary and some of the romance parts.*

**Who would you recommend the book to? Why?**

*I would recommend this to anybody who wants to read a good romance/ historical fiction book because it is really interesting and educating in a few ways.*



**By Sharon  
Nwabueze (8R)**



# Book Reviews by our Winners:

**Title:** The Hidden City  
**Author:** Reem Al-Shami



## **What is the book about?**

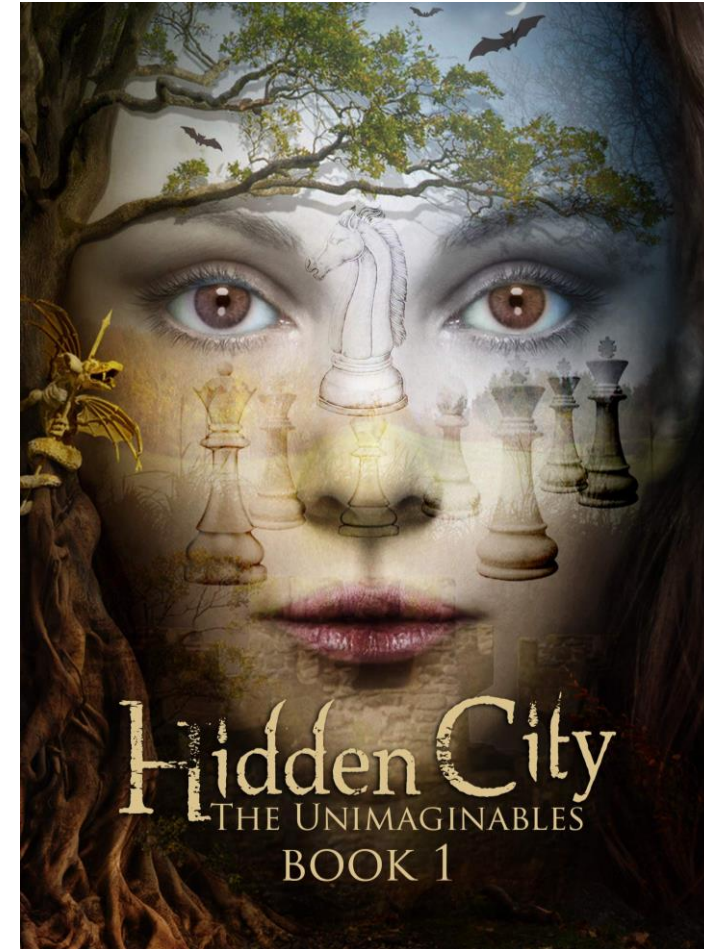
*The novel's events take place in a fantasy world where the heroine, Lina, lives in a city governed by supernatural forces and inhabited by strange creatures.*

## **What ages and interests is this book suitable for? Why?**

*The book is suitable for readers of all ages, especially for young people and teenagers who love fairy tales and adventures.*

## **Who would you recommend the book to? Why?**

*The exciting part of the novel is when Lina begins to uncover the secrets and mysteries surrounding the city and faces challenges and dangers in order to reach the truth.*



**By Mariam Badr  
(8A)**

# Book Reviews by our Winners:

**Title:** Class Act

**Author:** Jerry Craft



**What is the book about?**

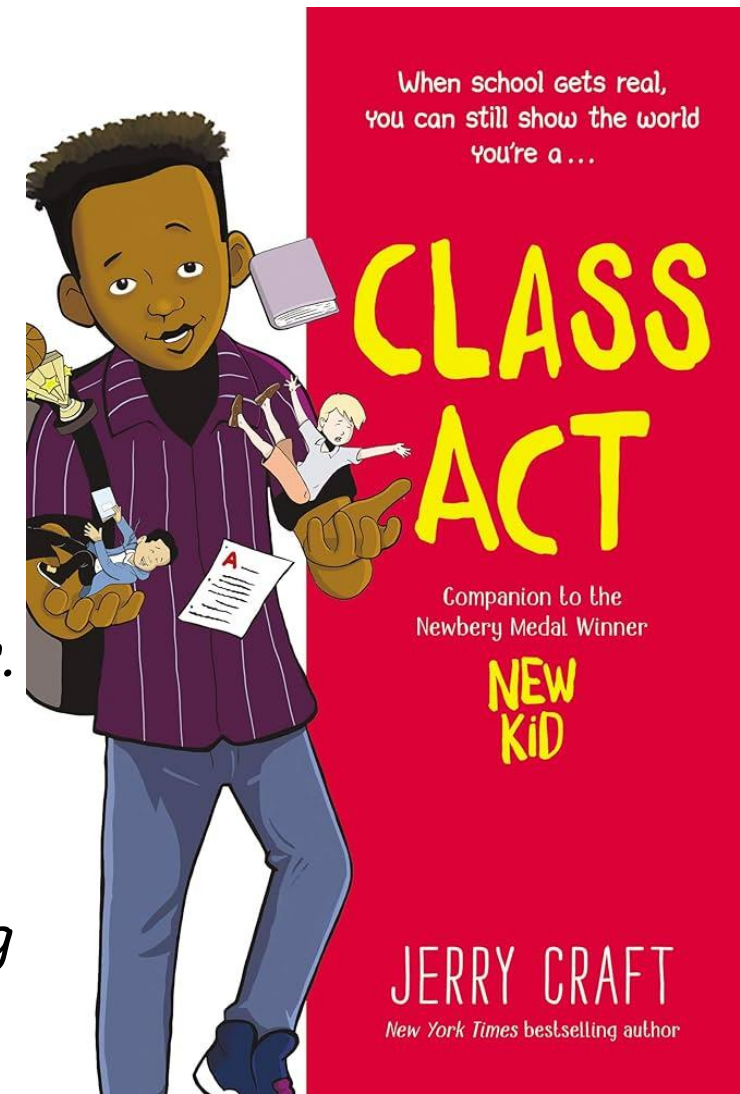
*This book teaches about racism. The first instance of racial stereotyping occurs when the boys arrive at school and a girl named Ashley, who has a crush on Drew, starts touching his hair. He repeatedly asks her to stop but she does not listen.*

**What ages and interests is this book suitable for? Why?**

*I would say age 10+ because this book has a bit of understanding on racism.*

**Who would you recommend the book to? Why?**

*I would recommend it to young kids to give them an idea of racism and teach them an important lesson in life.*



**By Ganeem Kaur  
Matta (8P)**

# Story written by our Winners:

**Title:** Horror Story

**Author:** Dominic Araba (9R)

In the small town of Harper's Glen, whispers of an ancient forest curse were a common topic around the fireplace. Children were often warned to steer clear of the woods that bordered the town, especially as twilight fell. Most dismissed the tales as mere superstition, but a sense of unease still lingered.

One crisp autumn evening, three friends—Lila, Max, and Ethan—decided to test the legends. They were adventurous and skeptical, convinced that the stories were just that: stories. The trio had grown up together, their bond forged through countless adventures, but the forest had always remained unexplored.

Armed with flashlights and a sense of determination, they ventured into the woods. As they walked deeper, the trees seemed to close in around them, their gnarled branches creating eerie, twisted shapes in the fading light. The path became less discernible, the forest floor blanketed in a thick layer of leaves.

"Are you sure this is a good idea?" Lila whispered, her voice betraying a hint of nervousness.

"Come on, Lila," Max replied, trying to sound braver than he felt. "It's just a forest. There's nothing to be afraid of."

Ethan, the quietest of the group, remained silent but resolute, his flashlight scanning the darkness ahead. Suddenly, a cold wind rustled the leaves, and a low, mournful sound echoed through the trees. They froze, the sound unlike anything they had heard before.

"Did you hear that?" Ethan finally spoke, his voice barely audible.

Before they could react, a thick fog rolled in, enveloping them in a shroud of mist. The world around them grew muted, the forest seeming to twist and warp in the eerie light. The path they had followed was now lost to them, replaced by an endless expanse of indistinguishable trees.

Panic set in as they realized they were lost. Their flashlights flickered and dimmed, casting long, wavering shadows. They tried to retrace their steps, but every direction looked the same. The forest seemed alive, shifting and changing, leading them deeper into its heart.

Hours passed, and the friends grew more desperate. Lila clutched her locket, a gift from her grandmother, hoping it would bring them luck. Max tried to stay calm, but his fear was palpable. Ethan, ever the problem-solver, suggested they mark the trees to track their movements, but even this proved futile. The marks vanished, swallowed by the living wood.

As dawn approached, their flashlights gave out completely. Exhausted, they stumbled upon a small clearing, dominated by an ancient, twisted tree. Its branches seemed to reach out like skeletal fingers, and at its base, three small stones were arranged in a circle.

In the weak light of dawn, the stones revealed a chilling sight: names etched into their surfaces. Lila, Max, and Ethan. The realization hit them like a thunderclap—they were not the first, nor would they be the last.

The air grew colder, and the ground beneath their feet trembled. The tree's branches creaked and groaned, and a deep, guttural voice echoed through the clearing.

"You have entered my domain," it intoned. "And now you are mine."

The friends huddled together, their terror giving way to a strange calm. They knew there was no escape. As the first rays of sunlight pierced the forest canopy, they felt themselves being pulled into the earth, the forest claiming them as it had so many before.

Back in Harper's Glen, the townsfolk awoke to another day. The legend of the missing children would be told once more, a warning to the curious and the brave. The names of Lila, Max, and Ethan would be added to the list of those who had vanished, their fates a mystery.

And deep in the forest, the ancient tree stood silent sentinel, its roots entwined with the souls of the lost, waiting for the next brave souls to venture into its grasp.