



Booked Up to reach 2.5 million children **www.bookedup.org.uk**

By Christmas over 2 and half million books will have been given to Year 7 pupils across the country through the free books programme Booked Up, since its inception in 2007. Booked Up, which today launches its fourth year, is run by the national literature charity Booktrust, with the aim of encouraging reading for pleasure and independent reading choice.

Booked Up allows each Year 7 pupil to make their own choice of book from a selection of titles that include fiction, non fiction and poetry. This year children can choose their free book from a list of 19 titles, including six accessible books, to ensure that there is a book that will appeal to every child, whatever their ability or needs. The programme encourages independent reading and supports reading for pleasure as children make the sometimes difficult transition from primary to secondary education.

The new Booked Up book list:

Takeshita Demons by Cristy Burne (Frances Lincoln)
Warning! Aliens Are Invading the School! By Dinah Capparucci (Scholastic)
Z-Rex by Steve Cole (Random House)
The Dying Photo by Alan Gibbons (Barrington Stoke)
The Joshua Files: Invisible City by M.G. Harris (Scholastic)
At the Sign of the Sugared Plum by Mary Hooper (Bloomsbury)
Love, Aubrey by Suzanne LaFleur (Puffin)
Uncle Montague's Tales of Terror by Chris Priestley (Bloomsbury)
Fever Crumb by Philip Reeve (Scholastic)
Michael Rosen's A-Z: The Best Children's Poetry from Agard to Zephaniah (Puffin)
How to Avoid a Wombat's Bum by Mitchell Symons (Random House)
The Crowfield Curse by Pat Walsh (Chicken House)
The Lost Thing by Shaun Tan (Hachette)
Boffin Boy and the Forest of the Ninja by David Orme (Ransom)
The Big Fat Cow That Goes Kapow by Andy Griffiths & Terry Denton (Macmillan)
Me and My Cat? By Satoshi Kitamura (Andersen Press)
Stone Soup by Jess Stockham (Child's Play)
Calm Down, Boris! by Sam Lloyd (Templar)
Clackety-Clacks: Elephant by Luana Rinaldo (Macmillan)



All information about Booked Up can be found on the website

www.bookedup.org.uk

Secondary schools can register for Booked Up by visiting the Booked Up website.

The launch of the programme also sees the launch of a short story competition for young adults, to win a place on the judging panel of the 2010 Booktrust Teenage Prize. The theme of this year's short story is Invisibility and was inspired by the 2009 Booktrust Teenage Prize winning title, *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman. Information about the competition is included in packs being sent out to teachers today and can be found at

www.bookheads.org.uk

A Booktrust panel – including children's book professionals from the library sector, a children's author, and children's book reviewer – selected the books, which are ideal for reading for pleasure, represent a suitable degree of diversity, use language well and reflect various styles.

Public libraries and school library services are also being offered the opportunity to receive free sets of the books and supporting resources to enhance the Booked Up programme.

Quotes:

Nikki Gamble, Chair of the 2010 selection panel comments:

'Taking part in the selection panel for this year's Booked Up was a joy. It gave us an opportunity to read and talk about the wide range of books that are available for the early secondary age group and most importantly to focus our thoughts on the different kinds of readers and what they want from a book. We are proud of our final selection, which includes all kinds of books, from fact to fantasy, humour to horror and history to mystery.'



We hope we have found a book that will delight every reader and inspire them to read for pleasure and for life.'

Viv Bird, Chief Executive of Booktrust comments:

'At Booktrust, we are immensely proud of the Booked Up programme. Over the past 3 years, we have seen how giving 11 year olds the opportunity to choose a book of their own from a list of 19 engaging and varied titles stimulates a real excitement and buzz about reading. The transition from primary can be unsettling and, as the evidence shows, is a time when independent reading for pleasure can decline. Booked Up through the gift of a free book encourages all young people on their journey to becoming lifetime readers.'

*****Interviews and images are available**

For further information on the Booked Up programme please contact Alice Ingall on alice.ingall@booktrust.org.uk or 020 8875 4827

Notes to Editors

About Booktrust

Booktrust is an independent charity dedicated to encouraging people of all ages and cultures to engage with books. The written word underpins all our activity and enables us to fulfil our vision of inspiring a lifelong love of books for all. Booktrust is responsible for a number of successful national reading promotions, sponsored book prizes and creative reading projects aimed at encouraging readers to discover and enjoy books. These include the Orange Prize for Fiction, the Children's Laureate, the Get London Reading campaign, the Booktrust Teenage Prize and Bookstart, the national programme that works through locally based organisations to give a free pack of books to young children, with guidance materials for parents and carers. See www.booktrust.org.uk