

Resource Pack for Self-Isolating Students in KS4

While you are self-isolating at home, we hope you find this pack of study and revision websites useful.

And for fun there are short stories, audiobooks, and e-books for you to enjoy.



Suggested Study Websites

Why not try these recommended websites to help with your classwork and revision?

NEVER USE WIKIPEDIA FOR YOUR SCHOOL WORK!

General Websites

<https://www.britannica.com/>

<https://thekidshouldseethis.com/>

<https://theday.co.uk/>

<https://www.lbq.org/QuestionSets>

<https://kids.kiddle.co/>

Revision Websites

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/>

<https://www.tes.com/teaching-resources/gcse-exam-revision>

<https://studywise.co.uk/gcse-revision/>

<https://revisionscience.com/gcse-revision>

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/>

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/by-type/gcse/>

<https://getrevising.co.uk/resources/level/gcse>

<https://revisionworld.com/gcse-revision>

https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/wiki/GCSE_Revision_Notes

<https://www.goconqr.com/en/gcse/revision-tips/>

<https://studyrocket.co.uk/>

<https://www.senecalearning.com/>

<https://www.s-cool.co.uk/gcse>

<http://www.gojimo.com/>

Useful Videos

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9cQZH9pnZ2M&feature=emb_title

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i1UdDA_T_04

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tY1Cck0nVMI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AGB3fK4ajV8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O1mP6btNBxM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fcq8cRqihEg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q4z9R9Y2nc0>

English

<https://www.bl.uk/learning/online-resources>

<https://www.grammarbook.com/>

<http://www.englishbiz.co.uk/>

<https://www.bl.uk/discovering-literature>

<https://www.sparknotes.com/shakespeare/>

MFL

<https://www.languagesonline.org.uk/Hotpotatoes/index.html>

<http://www.frenchrevision.co.uk/>

Maths

<https://nrich.maths.org/secondary>

<https://me-u.com/maths/>

<https://mathsmadeeasy.co.uk/gcse-science-revision/>

Religious Studies

<https://www.bl.uk/sacred-texts>

Science

There is a selection of free E-book available on the NASA website. They can be downloaded in various formats.

<https://www.nasa.gov/nasa-at-home-e-books>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zrkw2hv>

Geography

<https://www.lonelyplanet.com>

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/>

History

The Churchill Archive- to access the Churchill archive and its amazing resources please use the logon details below:

www.churchillarchive.com.

Username: JRLibrary

Password: Library

And why not try these more fun websites that might help with your classwork as well!

Virtual Google Earth tours including Life in the Ocean Deep, UNCESO World Heritage sites and botanical gardens and much more...

<https://www.makeuseof.com/tag/google-earth-virtual-tours/>

There is a selection of resources on the Barbican Centre website.

<https://www.barbican.org.uk/read-watch-listen>

Think You Know is a website about online safety for all ages.

https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/?utm_campaign=1742132_May%2011th%202020&utm_medium=email&utm_source=The%20Day&dm_i=32K1,11C8K,7HKAXG,3YB9X,1

Lonely Planet Kids resources include loads of different activities such as how to Build a Space Rocket or a Hot Air Balloon, amongst other things, plus their YouTube channel features history, nature, science, transport, languages, and arts & craft activities.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=epwf0pZW_So&list=PLp8n0ijllfi5Iqx0D9O7sIUJ3k32tAMAu

<https://www.lonelyplanet.com/kids/blog>

James Mayhew is a children's author and illustrator. He has participated in a series of events where he sketched or painted alongside live orchestras, and this set of clips provides a glimpse of the events.

Brilliant for anyone who loves music or art.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bbcnow/events/play/popular/p08dhjdv>

Tom Whipple, Science Editor at The Time, introduces the science of radiation without the boring bits!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWBMlozhq6w>

Wildlife webcams: A huge collection of nature webcams, including birds of prey, rodents, foxes, badgers, pine marten, marine wildlife, African game reserves ...

<https://www.discoverwildlife.com/animal-facts/livestreams-wildlife/>

Drawing lessons & free downloadable nature images from illustrator Ben Rothery

<https://www.benrotheryillustrator.co.uk/collections/free-colouring-images>

The Anne Frank Video Diaries: Created by Anne Frank House, these videos look at what might have happened if Anne Frank had a camera rather than a diary.

<https://www.youtube.com/annefrank>

Audiobook recommendations

Below is a selection of the amazing audiobooks that are available for The John Roan School students. This list will be updated as more resources become available:

Watch videos and readings from your favourite authors including Michael Rosen, Anna James and Kwame Alexander

<https://authorfy.com/>

There is a selection of free classical audiobooks to listen to on both websites:

<https://www.learnoutloud.com/Results/Publisher/Lit2Go/1087>

<http://www.loyalbooks.com/genre/Children>

There is wider selection of fiction books available on this website, and in different languages:

<http://www.loyalbooks.com/>

Cressida Cowell (current Children's Laureate) is reading aloud a selection of her books on her YouTube Channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCe01xn13M8q2dsIw0mvW9lq>

Faber Booktime is a YouTube series where authors and illustrators discuss aspects of being an author or illustrator and their work, as well as reading from their books.

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvqjskRY40cs3YyJiCl_LynRY5094vMuc

Join Academy Award-winning filmmaker, Taika Waititi as he reads *James and the Giant Peach* by Roald Dahl, in full across 10 episodes.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/officialroalddahl>

Listen to Piers Torday read the brilliant *The Last Wild* on YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/piersft>

Fun Reading Activities

Below is just a small selection of the amazing free reading materials that are available for you to try...

Why not have a look at the British Library's amazing Harry Potter: A History of Magic exhibition?

<https://artsandculture.google.com/project/harry-potter-a-history-of-magic>

British Library has instructions for how to make your own mini book with instructions.

<https://bit.ly/33tLmas>

The National Literacy Trust has resources for all the family on its websites:
Zone In has activities for ages 13 plus.

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/zone-in/>

There are lots of fun Harry Potter activities on the Wizarding World website.

<https://www.wizardingworld.com/collections/starting-harry-potter>

There's a brilliant selection of resources based upon the Murder Most Unladylike series.

<https://robin-stevens.co.uk/top-secret/>

Create your own version of a classic Penguin cover on this brilliant website.

https://penguin.jos.ht/?utm_campaign=1743733_May%2013th%202020&utm_medium=email&utm_source=The%20Day&dm_i=32K1,11DH1,7HKAXG,3YGGY,1

Penguin Perspectives

Penguin have published essays by leading authors such as Michael Morpurgo and Jung Chang who are offering their responses to the Covid-19 outbreak.

<https://www.penguin.co.uk/penguin-perspectives/>

Free-E-Books to Read at Home

There is a selection of free comics available to download on this website:

<https://www.comixology.co.uk/free-comics>

Project Gutenberg offers over 50,000 free e-books in various formats.

www.gutenberg.org

On Neil Gaiman's website there are full versions of his books such as *The Graveyard Book* and *Coraline*.

There are also four short stories printed in full for reading and a whole load of activities and downloads based on Neil's writing.

<http://www.mousecircus.com/>

We hope that you enjoy these short stories that we've selected for you...

The Slug by Beryllium Baboon

"Hmm," mused Dr Klein with a mixture of surprise, interest and real concern. "There definitely seems to be something here." He shone his miniature but powerful light into the dark recesses of Laura's ear and moved her head gently to one side so that he could get a better view. He looked up at Laura's mum: "Her ear is totally blocked. When did you say you first noticed it?"

"On Monday - when we got back from our camping trip. Laura started to complain about not hearing properly on the Sunday morning, but we thought it was probably just sea-water, or maybe ear wax."

"Well it's certainly not ear wax, my dear. Let me see if I can remove it; if it doesn't come out easily, we'll have to send Laura to a specialist over at the hospital." The doctor paused, selected a pair of polished chrome tweezers from a drawer of specialist instruments, and bent once more over Laura's head. He inserted the tips of the tweezers with infinite care into his patient's ear canal and delicately closed them on the nearest piece of the dark brown and slimy object which lay within. At first, the tweezers slipped on the thick mucus covering the object, but then they found a purchase. Little by little, with great patience, Dr Klein began to withdraw the foreign body from Laura's ear.

Laura peered through the window of Belinda's Bargains. She loved the range of weird and wonderful things that could be found for sale in her favourite seaside shop. Her eyes alighted on a small area on the left-hand side of the display. Here, there was a ferocious, knobbly-kneed troll looking like it was about to emerge from the sticky, gravy-brown mud that oozed around the thick legs of its stout wooden bridge. The troll's painted green flesh was very realistic and highly detailed; Laura could even make out the peeling scabs and matted hair on his rubbery body. On top of the bridge there were three beautifully crocheted guinea pigs: one small, one enormous, and one medium sized. The smallest one appeared to be a little scrawny and meek, but in stark contrast the largest one looked as confident as he was plump and juicy. The troll's excited expression and its lolling, dribbling tongue seemed to reveal his intentions - there seemed little doubt that it had spotted its dinner.

A little to one side of the bridge was a die-cast metal model of an excavator, which according to the box behind it boasted over 20 accurately machined moving parts. From the powerful jaws of the yellow-necked monster sprouted shining silver teeth which glinted in the sunshine. Next to the model digger was a ceramic goat dressed up as if for a building site: protective clothing, a safety helmet and a bright yellow high-visibility jacket with the words Demolition Crew on the back. The goat seemed to be focused intently on a sheet of paper that it was holding in front of its chest. There was some tiny writing on the paper, but at this distance, Laura could not read what it said.

"Laura," called her mum. "We need to get moving - it's nearly dinner time."

"Coming!" replied Laura, and she tore herself reluctantly away from the bizarre tableau. As she did so, she thought for a fleeting moment that she saw the goat wink cheekily at her. Shaking her head, she raced after her mother, who was already climbing slowly up the hill towards the campsite. At the same time, a small inquisitive slug (the colour of strong black coffee) approached the semi-securely zipped entrance flap of Laura's tent, surfing an iridescent slime-trail of its own glue. Its two pairs of feelers waved excitedly as it glided slowly onto, and then up, the taut, emerald green canvas.

With a delicious vegetarian spaghetti Bolognese hungrily consumed, and the inevitably greasy, tomato-infested cooking things diligently washed up and put away, Laura and her mum settled down cosily in their sleeping bags for a second night together under canvas. They had completed their customary game of scrabble - which as usual Laura had won, since she was as sparkingly intelligent as her mother was annoyingly unfocused - and successfully negotiated several hands of poker (all of which were again won by the younger of the pair) when Laura realised that her mother was no longer awake. With a smile and a shrug, she turned off the camping light and snuggled deep inside her sleeping bag, before turning noisily onto her more comfortable side and closing her tired eyes.

In the darkness, the small brown slug felt confident enough to stir from the moist, safe corner in which it had been enjoying the delightful bounty of a browning, orphaned apple core. With rhythmic waves of muscular contraction rippling along the underside of its single foot, it set off on its latest journey of exploration. Before long, it found the entrance to Laura's sleeping bag and made its way slowly inside, where it indiscriminately and generously decorated the soft blue padded cotton with its viscous, protective secretions. The eyespots on

the end of its upper optical tentacles could detect very little light, but the lower pair could easily sense the moist, warm sweetness of Laura's breath. In response, the slug changed course towards the sleeping girl's head.

Dr Klein was concentrating hard on the delicate task at hand. "Nearly there," he whispered softly under his breath. "Aha! I've got it!" Out from Laura's ear, attached firmly to the sharp end of the doctor's medical tweezers, came a small brown slug - wriggling with displeasure and obvious discomfort under both the unyielding grip of the pincers and the bright dry heat of the GP's desk lamp.

Laura's mum recoiled in horror, gagged and quickly put her hand over her mouth. "Oh, my word!" she cried. "How on Earth is that even possible?"

"What is it mum?" asked her daughter, who due to the angle of her head, was not yet able to see what it was that had emerged from her ear canal.

Dr Klein answered for her. "It's a slug, my dear. Most unusual thing - never seen anything like it. In someone's ear I mean - plenty on my delphiniums!" he chuckled. Picking up his torch, he examined Laura's ear canal very thoroughly once more and then clicked off the light with a practised finger of his right hand. "Well, it's intact - we got it all. I don't think you'll have any more problems with this little chap. How does your ear feel now?"

Laura sat up and looked with fascination at the creature which had chosen her for a home. "That's really great! I can hear properly again - thank you Dr Klein!" She apparently did not share her mother's disgust at the forced evacuation of a terrestrial gastropod mollusc from her ear, but instead seemed solely curious. "What kind is it?"

"Not the faintest idea," he replied with amusement. "Why don't you take it home and look it up?"

"Brilliant!" laughed his young patient with a sparkle in her eyes. "Can I have a container please?"

With that, Laura's mum raised her eyes to the heavens, sighed wearily and got up from her chair.

Alex Underground by Anthony Horowitz

The man from Whitehall didn't know he was being followed. His name was Davenport and he worked as a civil servant in the Ministry of Defence.

He was carrying a black, leather briefcase which bumped against the side of his leg as he walked. He had no idea that there had been someone behind him from the moment he had left his office, but then he wasn't a very observant man. Nor did he realize that he had less than ten minutes to live. Just after half past two, he entered Leicester Square tube station, on his way to North London. The man who was following him passed through the ticket barrier and stood six steps behind him as they took the escalator down towards the platforms.

He was wearing orange tinted glasses and fingered a large, gold signet ring on his third finger. Neither of the two men noticed the 14-year-old boy standing on the other side, traveling up.

It was a one in a million chance.

SECRET

The boy's name was Alex Rider, and he was on his way to the cinema, meeting a couple of friends. Anyone glancing at him would have thought he was an ordinary teenager, slim and fair haired, wearing jeans and a baggy jersey.

They would have laughed at the suggestion that he had been sucked, unwillingly, into a world of spies and terrorists and that he had worked for MI6 Special Operations as a unique and highly secret weapon no fewer than four times.

At the end of one mission, he had been wounded and had found himself in a private room at St Dominic's Hospital in North London. But even as he had recovered, he had tangled with four kidnappers who had broken in during the night. It had been the start of an adventure that had led him to Ark Angel, the extraordinary space station orbiting the earth.

He had never learned the men's names, but he had called one Spectacles after the tinted glasses that he wore.

Alex recognized Spectacles now as the two of them passed. For a moment, he was tempted to do nothing. What business was it of his? He never searched for trouble but at the same time he couldn't just let it pass him by. Spectacles was the worst sort of killer, a man who would do anything if the price was right. And he was here, in London. He couldn't just let him sink out of sight.

Alex was almost at the top, at ground level, but he made a sudden decision, threw himself over the handrail and - ignoring the cries of the other passengers - began to slide back down the central reservation, lying on his back with his knees bent, the polished wooden surface offering no resistance. The escalator was steep and within seconds he was rushing past the commuters, hurtling back down towards platform level.

There was a barrier in the way, presumably to stop people doing exactly this. Alex twisted sideways moments before he crashed into it, rolling over the opposite handrail and dropping on to the down escalator a few steps before it reached the end. Someone shouted at him. A hand reached out to grab him. Shaking it off, he ran forward.

The two men had already reached the eastern platform of the Piccadilly line. As Alex continued forward, Spectacles caught up with Davenport and reached out with one hand as if to tap him on the shoulder. At the same time, he pressed a tiny switch on his signet ring. A cloud of poison gas hissed out underneath Davenport's face and the civil servant collapsed, dead so fast that he didn't even know it. At the same moment, Spectacles grabbed the briefcase and turned to move away. That was when he found Alex standing in front of him.

His eyes widened in shock. He recognized Alex instantly, but he didn't let it slow his reactions. Still holding the briefcase, his hand lunged for the gun in the spring-loaded holster clipped over his belt. The gimmicked ring he had used on Davenport was empty. Behind him, the body lay sprawled across the platform. A few commuters were moving towards it.

Alex had seen everything. A murder on the Underground, but one that was so fast that it had been invisible. And now it was his turn. He was already in combat stance as the gun, a Glock automatic, came out.

Alex had learned karate from the age of six. His uncle, Ian Rider, had insisted that he take lessons. It was just one of the ways that he had been prepared for the life that was waiting for him, even though he hadn't known it at the time. He swept the weapon aside with a simple downward block then followed through with an explosive front kick - mae-geri as it had been called by his instructor. Although he was only wearing trainers, his foot slammed into Spectacles stomach with full force.

The man was thrown backwards and off the platform, just as a tube heading for Heathrow roared out of the tunnel.

There weren't many people on the platform, but a woman had seen what had happened and screamed as the man hung briefly in the air, the electric rails beneath him, the tube train bearing down on him, the horrified driver staring out of the window. In fact, Spectacles was lucky. He dropped in front of the advancing train, missing it by inches. Nor was he electrocuted. He landed in the crawl space beneath the rails and was still there, trapped, when police and the security services arrived to drag him out.

The station was evacuated. Davenport's body was taken away on a stretcher and that night on the news it would be announced that a senior civil servant had sadly died of a heart attack.

Alex was never told what the briefcase contained or who had paid Spectacles to steal it. But then, there are some secrets that must be kept at any cost and the existence of a 14-year-old spy was certainly one of them. Alex himself was allowed to slip quietly away. Unfortunately, he had missed his film.