23. **BOOKS**

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WORDS FOR LIFE



SAMUEL J Halpin writes daily. Having studied journalism, he went on to study cinematography in Sydney before moving to London and working in comedy TV production. The Peculiar Peggs of *Riddling Woods* is published this month. Here, he tells us what the best thing about reading is.

I remember once eating an entire pancake (cream and jam) that was meant for my brother completely by accident, simply because I was so mesmerised by what I was reading. Being lost and not looking for a way out is the best thing about reading.

TO READ SAMUEL'S FULL INTERVIEW, VISIT WORDSFORLIFE.ORG.UK/AUTHOR-INTERVIEWS For book recommendations, activities and games, go to wordsforlife.org.uk.

BOOK REVIEWS Michelle Magorian Back Home

Reviewed by Daisy Stansfield, age 12

It's 1945 and WW2 is just ending. Twelve-yearold Rusty has just arrived back from America, where she was evacuated five years before, to the rainy corner of England that she left. Everyone expects her to be thrilled to be home. But it doesn't feel like home, she barely remembers it and her mother is hardly more than a stranger. She is cold and lonely, struggles with the rationing and misses America desperately. Things come to a climax when she's sent away to school and she stages a final, desperate, revolution...

This is one of my favourite books – I love the subject and characterisation. I would recommend it to everyone between 8 and 14.

BECOME A FIRST NEWS BOOK REVIEWER!

HAVE you read a book recently that you desperately want to tell people about? Write us a review! We'll need around 100 words on a book you've been reading – good or bad – and a picture of yourself (with parents' permission!). Email your review to bookreviews@firstnews.co.uk

WHAT'S IN THE SHOPS?

WONDER WOMAN WATCH IWANTONEOFTHOSE.COM £16.99

Help protect the skies with the LEGO DC Universe Superheroes Wonder Woman minifigure link watch! It's time to protect the innocent and bring the bad guys to justice once again. Featuring cool interchangeable links and a minifigure integrated into the bracelet, this watch can be personalised any way you like.

GAME BOY WATCH ARGOS £19.99

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Fans of retro gaming will love this cool watch. The iconic green screen of the original Game Boy shows the time, and with the action buttons below you can play with the settings at your leisure. The strap also fits in with the Game Boy style and is adjustable to the size of your wrist.

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STAR WARS YODA WATCH WATCHSHOP.COM £11



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He's a smart, wise and legendary Jedi Master. His light-up functions and backlit LCD display will guide you in the right direction whenever you need it. Your new partner will never leave your side.



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WATCHES

