Sutton Grammar School

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Best of All Worlds by Kenneth Oppel

Best of All Worlds by Kenneth Oppel is a gripping sci-fi thriller. One weekend, teenager Xavier reluctantly leaves his brother and mum behind to spend time with his Dad and heavily pregnant stepmum, Nia, at their old family lake house. Xavier wakes the following morning to discover the lake has completely disappeared. He rushes to tell his Dad and Nia, who are just as baffled by the discovery.

They venture outside to see if anything else has changed and discover a goat (that needs milking) and chickens in the farmland around them. Initially thinking this looks like their property they soon learn that there is an unpenatrable boundary that they can't pass or break. They then discover that they all have three dots which have inexplicably appeared on their backs. Alone and trapped in their surroundings, they must try to survive with only the basics around them, but the question is, why are they there and who is watching them?

Three years later, Xavier sees another house has been mysteriously appeared over night on the other side of the farm. He goes to explore it, to find the belongings of another family with two daughters which have been perfectly replicated. Initially Xavier is filled with excitement to see other people, but when they arrive they bring with them conflicting views and beliefs, which threatens everyone's existence.

This book is well written, and Kenneth Oppel fans will not be disappointed by the many twists and turns throughout the story. Following Xavier and his family as they adapt to their surroundings and captors is both compelling and thought-provoking. The ending is particularly impactful, delivering a satisfying conclusion while leaving readers wondering what might lie on the other side.

Available as an ebook on Sora.

Recommended for students in KS3/4 age 13+.

Publisher: Guppy Books
Publication date: 30 April 2026
Print length: 256 pages
ISBN-13: 978-1916558434

KEEP FAITH

Genre: Sci-fi Thriller