



# St Christopher's School Library Bulletin

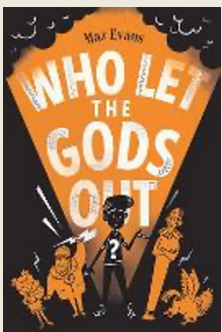
## Term 1 2022

“When I look back, I am so impressed again with the life-giving power of literature. If I were a young person today, trying to gain a sense of myself in the world, I would do that again by reading, just as I did when I was young.”

Maya Angelou

Welcome to our first Library newsletter. We hope to inspire a love of reading in all our pupils, and it as the key to unlocking the wonders of our knowledge rich curriculum. We hope you enjoy our half-termly updates, recommended reading from our school librarian, and an insight into the support our library offers.

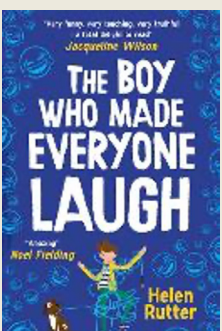
### KS3 Book Recommendations



Poor Elliot is having a very tough time. His mum is poorly, they have serious money problems, a devilishly devious interfering neighbour and school is quite simply a complete nightmare! So the last thing Elliot needs is for a conceited constellation to crash land smack, bang in the middle of his cow shed. Suddenly feisty, fearless Virgo enters his life with ‘a damp, loud splat.’ Together they manage to set free a dangerous and incredibly evil Daemon of Death and before long it is down to Elliot to save the world. As if he didn't have enough on his plate!



When Life Gives You Mangoes is set in the close-knit community of Sycamore Hill, Jamaica, where Clara spends her days playing ‘pick leaf’, having fun at the river and avoiding the wrath of moody Ms Gee. She used to love surfing, but now she's scared of the sea and she can't remember why. In fact, Clara can't remember anything about last summer. She also can't explain why her best friend Gaynah is being mean to her, and no one will tell her why Pastor Brown has turned the entire town against her Uncle Eldorath.



Billy likes nothing more than making and performing jokes and dreams that one day he will be a famous stand-up comedian. But Billy has a stammer and it can be hard for him even to get a joke out quickly enough. Just now, Billy has a problem which will strike a chord with many: he is about to start secondary school and knows that it will be all too easy for him to become a target for bullies. Especially because of his stammer. Billy thinks of all kinds of schemes to avoiding speaking while also knowing that staying silent goes right against who he really is. How can Billy show his tremendous inner strength and especially his great sense of humour if he never dares to speak?

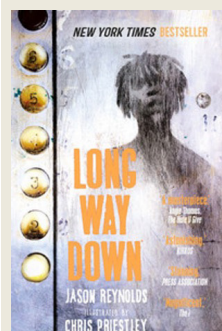
### KS4 Book Recommendations



Mark Haddon's best-selling story of how Christopher, a boy with Asperger's syndrome, sees the world and makes sense of it in his own particular way became a success for children and adults alike. When Christopher finds a dead dog on his neighbour's lawn he applies the principles he has learnt from Sherlock Holmes, his own literary hero, to the situation and so begins the narration of his own remarkable story.



Amber's parents strike her as eccentric, but nothing prepares her for the awful truth, revealed on her sixteenth birthday: they are demons, and so is she. Not that that will stop them from killing and eating her. Fleeing her parents, Amber embarks on a road-trip like no other. In the company of inscrutable bodyguard Miles and Glen, a gormless Irish hitchhiker with supernatural issues of his own, she speeds down America's Dark Highway, careering from one terrifying encounter to another, racing to complete a deal with the boss demon to save her life.



Will is only fifteen but he's experienced more violence and loss than most people might in an entire lifetime. His big brother Shawn was recently shot dead, right in front of him, but as “everybody knows”, “gunshots make everybody/deaf and blind especially/when they make somebody/dead”. While his mom mourns, “sobbing into her palms”, Will knows what he has to do. He must follow the three rules: No crying. No snitching. Revenge. Armed with Shawn's gun, Will heads down six floors in an elevator on his revenge mission, thinking he knows exactly who he's going after.

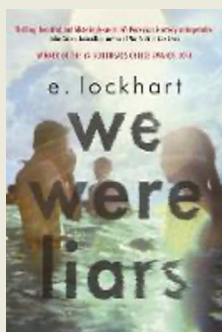
## KS5 Book Recommendations



Talented actress Audrey (named after Hepburn) has just started working in an indie cinema where she begrudgingly serves gourmet hotdogs to the well-heeled inhabitants of Bridgely-upon-Thames alongside zombie-movie-maker and “player” Harry. When set a Critical Research project by her media studies teacher, Audrey decides to write about “why love is never like the movies”, and boy does she know about the devastating disappointments of real-life love, what with her mum seeking solace in alcohol as a result of her dad starting a new family.



Camino Rios has always lived in the Dominican Republic with her aunt Tia, “a woman who speaks to the dead, who negotiates with spirits”, a woman who’s like a mother to her: “Even when Mama was alive, Tia was the other mother of my heart.” Life’s not easy for them on the island, but they have it better than their neighbours as a result of Camino’s beloved Papi working in the US for most of year. But all life is thrown into terrible disarray when she goes to meet Papi at the airport and learns that his plane has fallen from the sky.



Rich, beautiful, privileged – the Sinclair clan seem to have it all. For Cadence and her cousins that means long hot summers on their special holiday island. Days of swimming and picnics and parties. But around them swirl the problems of their parents and particularly, the complex issues of their inheritance. When Cadence hits her head in an accident she can’t remember anything about how it might have happened; a whole section of her life is missing. It is only when she goes back to the family island that the truth slowly and painfully becomes clear.

All Key Stage 3-5 reviews are from [www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk](http://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk)

## Library News

The School library is always interested in supporting our young readers here at St Christopher's. This term a volunteer group of Year 8 pupils have formed a judging panel to review shortlisted books provided by the Royal Society. These enterprising pupils read and review the books, meeting up to discuss their favourite. The results of these discussions are then sent to the Royal Society in January, whilst the winner of the Royal Society's Young People's Book Prize, which this supports, will be announced in March.

## Readers Recommend:



Mr Gerrard recommends, **Kensuke's Kingdom**.

**“Kensuke’s kingdom is one of my all time favourite books. Still now, little comes close to the drama that plays out in one of Michael Morpurgo’s finest historical fictional novels. A story of true adventure. One boy’s resilience to survive and importantly to the story itself, one of friendship between the unlikely of companions.**

**We read it with Mr Young back in 7X2 English who tells stories like no other and admittedly, I bought the book weeks later. I still have my copy and many more Michael Morpurgo books! Come talk to me about them!”**

Mr J Gerrard

## What’s coming up:

**October:** Be inspired during Black History Month by this fantastic map of authors, illustrators, publishers and bookshops: [Black British book map and book lists](#) | [National Literacy Trust](#)

**November:** Remembrance Day, learn about the fascinating story of [The Flying Prince The-Flying-Prince.pdf \(tompalmer.co.uk\)](#) Or perhaps try reading some War Poetry from this fantastic anthology [World War I: Poetry by Year by The Editors](#) | [Poetry Foundation](#)

**December:** Why not explore international authors and books inspired by football during the World Cup? Our older readers may enjoy David Yallop’s ‘How they Stole the game’.

## Want to find out more?

Visit our library website where you will find our guide to reading at home as well as recommended reading lists for KS3-4: [St Christopher's - Library](#)

The link below is the shortcut for the new library management system. Pupils can request a password from Miss Holman and can access the library catalogue from home and also do book reviews:

[St Christopher's - Library Catalogue](#)



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