



St Christopher's School Library Bulletin

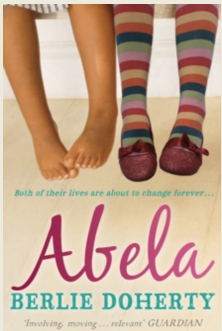
Term 2 2023

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

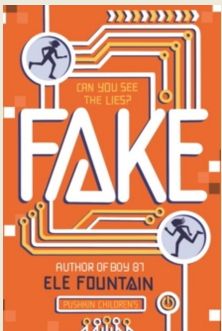
KS3 Book Recommendations



"Be strong, my Abela." These are the last words of Abela's mother in their HIV/Aids stricken African village, where it seems that to live or to die, to be sick or to be healthy, is just a matter of chance.

It takes all Abela's strength to survive her Uncle Thomas's scheming to get to Europe, but what will be her fate as an illegal immigrant?

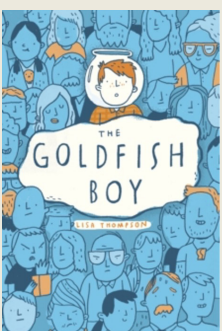
Could these two girls ever become sisters? Is there room in Rosa's family for an African orphan haunted by lions? Is there room in their hearts?



In a digital world it's hard to know what's real. Imagine a world where your only friends are virtual, and big tech companies control access to food, healthcare and leisure.

This is Jess's world. But when she turns fourteen, Jess can go to school with other children for the first time. Most of them hate the 'real' world.

Jess risks everything by using skills forbidden in the cyber-world, only to stumble on something explosive.



A story about finding friendship when you're lonely - and hope when all you feel is fear. Twelve-year-old Matthew is trapped in his bedroom by crippling OCD, spending most of his time staring out of his window as the inhabitants of Chestnut Close go about their business. Until the day he is the last person to see his next door neighbour's toddler, Teddy, before he goes missing. Matthew must turn detective and unravel the mystery of Teddy's disappearance - with the help of a brilliant cast of supporting characters.

KS4 Book Recommendations



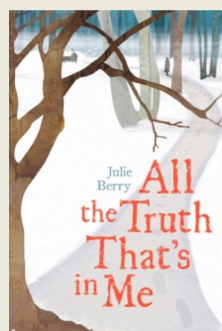
Heartstopper, volume 1 - Charlie and Nick are at the same school, but they've never met ... until one day when they're made to sit together. They quickly become friends, and soon Charlie is falling hard for Nick, even though he doesn't think he has a chance. But love works in surprising ways, and Nick is more interested in Charlie than either of them realised.

(Contains swearing).



"They think I hurt someone. But I didn't. You hear? Cos people are gonna be telling you all kinds of lies. I need you to know the truth". Joe hasn't seen his brother for ten years, and it's for the most brutal of reasons.

Ed is on death row. But now Ed's execution date has been set, and Joe is determined to spend those last weeks with him, no matter what other people think. What value do you place on life? What can you forgive? And just how do you say goodbye?

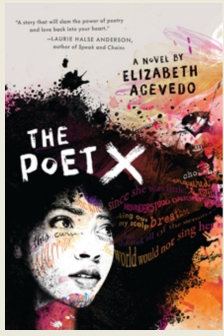


ALL THE TRUTH THAT'S IN ME is many things. It is a true romance, a story of desperate yearning and unrequited love.

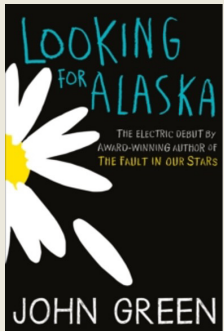
It's a page-turning mystery full of twists and turns that will keep you guessing until the very end.

But most of all, it's an empowering drama about a girl's journey from victim to hero.

KS5 Book Recommendations



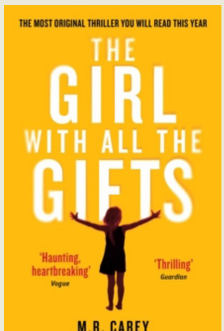
Xiomara has always kept her words to herself. When it comes to standing her ground in her Harlem neighbourhood, she lets her fists and her fierceness do the talking. But X has secrets - her feelings for a boy in her bio class, and the notebook full of poems that she keeps under her bed. And a slam poetry club that will pull those secrets into the spotlight. Because in spite of a world that might not want to hear her, Xiomara refuses to stay silent. A novel about finding your voice and standing up for what you believe in, no matter how hard it is to say.



Miles Halter's whole life has been one big non-event until he starts at anything-but-boring Culver Creek Boarding School and meets Alaska Young.

Gorgeous, clever, funny and utterly fascinating she pulls Miles into her world, launches him into a new life, and steals his heart.

But when tragedy strikes, and Miles comes face-to-face with death he discovers the value of living and loving unconditionally.



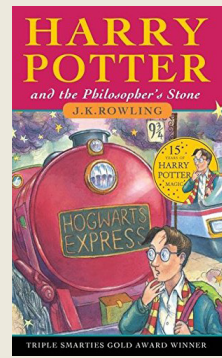
Every morning, Melanie waits in her cell to be collected for class.

When they come for her, Sergeant Parks keeps his gun pointing at her while two of his people strap her into the wheelchair.

She thinks they don't like her. She jokes that she won't bite. But they don't laugh. Melanie is a very special girl.

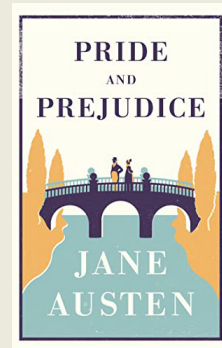
All book summaries and covers are taken from [Browns Books](#).

Readers Recommend:



Mrs Ramsbottom recommends, **Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone** by J.K. Rowling .

"This book was given to me as a birthday present when I was roughly 10 or 11 years old, and I can still get lost in the world of fantasy and magic at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry alongside Harry, Ron and Hermione. I am looking forward to reading the whole series of books with my daughter one day. (She is just waiting on an owl with her acceptance letter to Hogwarts first!)"



Mrs Lillie recommends, **Pride and Prejudice**, by Jane Austen.

"This was recommended to me by my History teacher when I was at school and is still one of my favourite books. The book transported me back to a different time and place, with characters who have become some of my favourites in any books I have read. I still re-read it now and find myself rooting for Lizzie and Darcy even though I know the ending!"

Library News

An update from our librarian

In January I launched our 'Reading Mentor' scheme. Pupils are encouraged to borrow picture books and share them with a younger member of their family e.g. a sibling, cousin or friend.

They read the story out loud, listening to the child read (if the child is able to read), discuss the story and pictures, what might happen next etc. I talk to the pupils each time they return a book, to see how it went and if I can offer any tips in case of any issues.

When pupils have shared 6 books with their child, they receive a 'Reading Leader' badge and certificate. The scheme is still in its infancy but we have had interest from seven pupils so far. Two of the pupils (both from Year 7) have completed the scheme. Congratulations to Hannah Ley and Emily Mitchell who both received their 'Reading Leader' badge and certificate.

Miss S Holman (Librarian)



World Book Day 2023

Year 7 marked World Book Day again on Friday 3rd March by dressing as a character from their favourite book, and donating a pound to the school Library.

As ever, it was a popular event, and we were most impressed with the imagination and flair of the pupils, who really got into the spirit of things. Costumes ranged from animals to wizards, via Cruella DeVil and Little Red Riding Hood. Most terrifying was a nearly life-size Tyrannosaurus Rex, which towered over the corridors, and had some difficulty getting through the doorways.

As usual though, the point of the fun was to raise awareness of literacy, and to encourage pupils to do the most important thing they can to improve their educational opportunities: **Read!**

Mr W Young (Head of English)



What's coming up:

17 March 2023 - Red Nose Day: Through Red Nose Day, the Comic Relief charity raises funds to support a vision of a just world, free from poverty. Find out more at [Secondary schools | Comic Relief](#)

17- 26 March - Lancaster Litfest: Packed with fiction, poetry, storytelling, history. Specific 'Big Read Author' events for young people. Find out more at [Litfest 2023 - Litfest](#)

22nd April - Earth Day: Why not check out some recommended reading from The Independent from [Earth Day 2022 Earth Day 2022: Climate scientists and activists recommended reading lists | The Independent](#)

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 and other useful links:

[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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