



St Christopher's School Library Bulletin

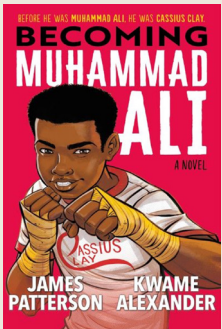
Term 3 - 2023

“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.”

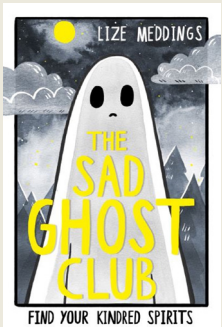
Maya Angelou

Welcome to our third 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



From two heavy-hitters in children's literature comes a biographical novel of cultural icon Muhammad Ali. Before he was a household name, Cassius Clay was a kid with struggles like any other.

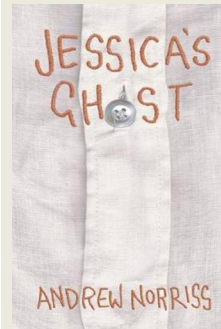


An anxious, lonely person meets someone very similar at a party to which neither wanted to go and a tentative friendship begins.

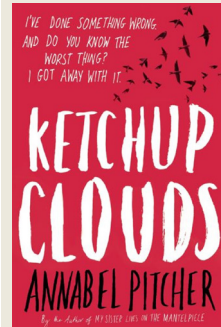


The Dragonet Prophecy. Not every dragonet wants a destiny... Clay has grown up under the mountain, chosen along with four other dragonets to fulfil a mysterious prophecy and end the war between the dragon tribes of Pyrrhia. He's not so sure about the prophecy part, but Clay can't imagine not living with the other dragonets; they're his best friends. So, when one of the dragonets is threatened, all five spring into action. Together, they will choose freedom over fate, leave the mountain, and fulfil their destiny - on their own terms.

KS4 Book Recommendations



When a shy teenage boy with a love of fashion design meets the ghost of a girl, his life changes for the better, as well as the lives of two other misfits he makes friends with.

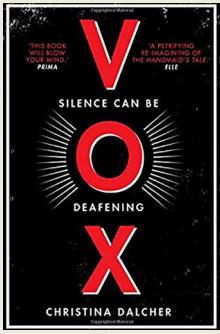


A teenage girl starts writing to an American prisoner on Death Row about a traumatic incident that happened in her life.



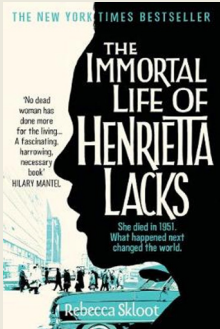
A 17-year-old girl discovers she's a demon and begins a quest to evade her demon parents intent on killing her to get her powers.

KS5 Book Recommendations

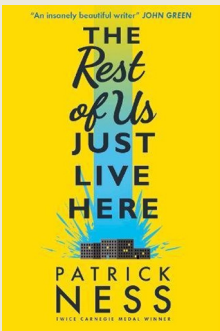


Silence can be deafening. Jean McClellan spends her time in almost complete silence, limited to just one hundred words a day. Anymore, and a thousand volts of electricity will course through her veins. Now the new government is in power, everything has changed. But only if you're a woman. Almost overnight, bank accounts are frozen, passports are taken away and seventy million women lose their jobs.

This is only the beginning...



Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor Southern tobacco farmer whose cancer cells became one of the most important tools in medicine. Rebecca Skloot takes the reader on an extraordinary journey in search of Henrietta's story.



The story follows the lives of ordinary high school students as typical literary tropes of teenage novels such as zombie invasion and terminal illness are played out in everyday life around them.

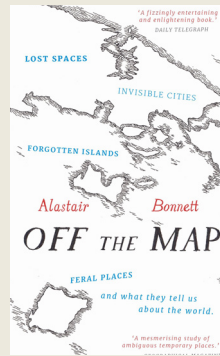
All book summaries and covers are taken from Peters.co.uk.

Readers Recommend:



Mrs Williamson recommends, **The Book Thief** by Markus Zusak.

"This is a beautiful and touching story cleverly told by the character 'Death'. It is an interesting book because, although it is written about life in Nazi Germany, it is written about the experiences of German people at that time and their suffering during World War 2, including at the hands of the British. This is a perspective that we sometimes fail to consider. This book can be difficult to read as some of the events are very tragic. But it makes you consider how kindness will always exist, no matter how difficult the circumstances. I would highly recommend this book to anybody looking for some historical fiction, but have a packet of tissues at the ready!"



Mr Smith recommends, **Off the Map** by Alastair Bonnett.

"A good book if you have a bit of wanderlust, or are interested in weird and wonderful places, underground cities, lost spaces and even places that don't exist (think platform 9 ¾ Harry Potter fans, although of course that now does exist!!). It is full of lots of short chapters for a quick read into different spaces that have been claimed, annexed or invented, and the history behind those. I even learned that there was a newly forming "Trash Island" in the Pacific that is 22 times the size of Belgium, and more about the Aralqum Desert, which used to be a sea before human influence and climate change."

Library News

An update from our librarian

In January we 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. When pupils have shared 6 books with their child, they receive a 'Reading Leader' badge and certificate.

Congratulations to Catriona Lord from Year 7, who recently completed the scheme and received her 'Reading Leader' badge and certificate.

Miss S Holman (Librarian)



Young People's Book Prize 2023

'The Young People's Book Prize aims to promote literacy in young people and to inspire them to read about science. It also supports the writing of excellent, accessible STEM books for under-14s. The Prize is unique in that the winner is selected by judging panels made up of young people at schools across the country from a shortlist curated by an adult judging panel.'

- From the Royal Society website.

We had a judging panel made up of five Year 8 pupils, Rosie, Emily, Emma, Evelyn and Jake who read each book and submitted a review. As a panel they met before Christmas 2022 and decided that 'If the World were 100 People' by Jackie McCann and Aaron Cushley was their favourite book.

The winner was announced on Tuesday 7 March 2023, and it was... 'If the World were 100 People' by Jackie McCann and Aaron Cushley!

As a thank you for taking part each member of the judging panel has been given a book, bookmark and a certificate.



What's coming up:

Pride Month: 1st - 30th June 2023 - [Promoting diversity through literacy | National Literacy Trust](#)

Summer Reading Challenge: 23rd June - Apply online or access resources [here](#).

The Yoto Carnegies: 23rd June - Livestream of the awards winners, check out the shortlists and the winners via their website [The Yoto Carnegies](#) and try one of the [shortlisted books](#) over the summer.

Robert Muchamore introduces Robin Hood for the 21st century: Fri 30th June, 1.30pm - 2.15pm (FOR YRS 7 & 8) with his fast-paced Robin Hood series that brings 'the Robin Hood myths into an alternative contemporary world, reshaped by the climate crisis.' [Details here](#).

The Northern Literary Festival: Sat 22 July - [NYALitFest & KIDSLitFest 2023](#). A great event to support – opportunity for students to meet their YA heroes such as [Melissa Welliver \(My Love Life and the Apocalypse\)!](#), [Diana Anyakwo \(My Life as a Cameleon\)](#), [Lauren Steven \(Every Exquisite Thing\)](#), [Josh Silver \(Happy Head\)](#), [Danielle Jawando \(And the Stars Were Burning Brightly\)](#) and [Cynthia Murphy \(The Midnight Game\)](#). Programme available [here](#).

Summer Reading Bingo: July - August 2023 - Summer Reading Bingo is an activity for KS2-3 children (and adults if they wish!) to complete over the summer holidays. The focus is on reading for pleasure experiences rather than specific texts [Summer Reading Bingo on BooksForTopics | Recommended children's booklists sorted by age or topic](#).

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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