

ST MARY'S SCHOOL

Recommended Reading



LIBRARY AND ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

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The following offers some suggestions for reading for girls in years 7 and 8. It covers titles both old and new, in no particular order, and deliberately excludes many of the "more popular" authors. All are available from the School Library.

Happy Reading!

Elizabeth Laird

The Witching Hour

At the heart of this historical novel is the story of strong spirited Maggie whose life is put in danger when her grandmother is accused of witchcraft. Alone and at risk, Maggie has to run for her life and sets out on a journey to the safe haven of her only relatives. But Scotland is in the grip of terror and Maggie runs straight into danger, by falling into the hands of the English. Defying the king can be deadly, but falling in line is unthinkable. Courageous Maggie has to stand up for what matters most to her – despite danger.

Gennifer Choldenko

Al Capone Does My Shirts

When Moose Flanagan and his family move home and become residents of the famous prison island Alcatraz, things get interesting. First of all, they share the island with a few other families and a lot of pretty heavy-duty criminals including Al Capone. And secondly, Moose's sister is starting a new school, which everyone hopes will help her become more integrated with those around her. When Moose comes up with some pretty cunning money-making schemes based on his famous co-residents, he does not count on his sister becoming inadvertently involved.

Berlie Doherty

Treason

Young William Montague is plucked from a life of obscurity to become page boy to Prince Edward the son and heir of King Henry VIII. William soon becomes a favourite of the King's but he also makes dangerous enemies who know enough about his family to bring about his downfall. When William's father is accused of treason and thrown into Newgate Prison, William has to go into hiding in the back streets of London. He is befriended by a poor boy, Nick Drew, and together they brave imprisonment and death as they desperately try to gain pardon for William's father.

Alyxandra Harvey

Haunting Violet

Violet Willoughby doesn't believe in ghosts, especially since her mother has worked as a fraudulent medium for a decade. Violet has taken part in enough of her mother's tricks to feel more than a little jaded about anything supernatural. The ghosts, however, believe in Violet and she's seeing them everywhere. One ghost in particular needs Violet to use her emerging gift to solve her murder... and prevent the ghost's twin sister from suffering the same fate.

John Boyne

Noah Barleywater Runs Away

Noah is running away from his problems the day he takes the untrodden path through the forest - or at least that's what he thinks. When he comes across a very unusual toyshop and meets the even more unusual toymaker, he's not sure what to expect. But the toymaker has a story to tell, a story full of adventure, wonder and broken promises. As the story unfolds Noah reveals why he's running away and the puppet-maker encourages him to return home. But Noah's journey has changed his life forever.

Kate Thompson

The New Policeman

There is never enough time in Kinvara, or anywhere else in Ireland for that matter. When Helen Liddy is asked what she wants for her birthday, she says, 'Time. That's what I want. Time.' When JJ sets out to buy time for his mother he stumbles into the mythical land of eternal youth where time is supposed to stand still. But somehow time is leaking between the two worlds. JJ is the only person who can fix the leak and as he does so he begins to unravel secrets of his history as the legends of Ireland come to life around him. Who knows where the time goes? JJ does.

Celia Rees

Sovay

This novel is set against the backdrop of the French Revolution and its impact on British politics. Escaping from her cheating fiancé, Sovay adopts the dress and lifestyle of a highwayman and takes to the dangerous roads of eighteenth century England. Soon she's swept up in intrigue and corruption. Will she be able to survive, and if she does, at what cost?

Alex Scarrow

Time Riders (Book 1)

Liam O'Connor should have died at sea in 1912. Maddy Carter should have died on a plane in 2010. Sal Vikram should have died in a fire in 2029. Yet moments before death, someone mysteriously appeared and said, 'Take my hand ...' But Liam, Maddy and Sal aren't rescued. They are recruited by a secret agency, with one sole purpose - to fix broken history. Because time travel is here, and there are those who would go back in time and change the past. That's why the Time Riders exist. They must stop time travel from destroying the world...

Sophie McKenzie

Sister Missing

It's two years after the events of *Girl, Missing* and life is not getting any easier for sixteen-year-old Lauren, as exam pressure and a recent family tragedy take their toll. Lauren's birth mother takes Lauren and her two sisters on holiday in the hope that some time together will help, but a few days into the holiday one of the sisters disappears, under circumstances very similar to those in which Lauren was taken years before. Can Lauren save her sister, and stop the nightmare happening all over again?

Alan Shea

The Amazing Mind of Alice Makin

Twelve-year old Alice is growing up in a grey world of old bombsites, in post war London. It's a tough life made harder by her difficult step-dad. Alice's escape is her imagination, which always brightens her day. But when a new boy called Reggie starts school, her mind begins playing tricks on her. She seems oddly drawn to him and whenever they are together the world becomes a more exciting and colourful place. A place where imagination appears to become real. It seems that together, they can do extraordinary things...

Cora Harrison

I Was Jane Austen's Best Friend

It is 1791, and 16-year-old Jenny Cooper has slipped out of Mrs. Crawley's boarding school to post a letter to Steventon Rectory warning Reverend and Mrs Austen that their daughter, Jane, is seriously ill. By doing so, Jenny risks her reputation, for she ventures out alone and unescorted in a rough area of Portsmouth. Along the way Jenny happens to meet and fall desperately in love with handsome Captain Thomas Williams. This sets the stage for the rest of the novel, in which young Jenny, now living with the Austen's on the family estate, keeps a diary. When Thomas reappears, Jenny fears he will inadvertently ruin her reputation. Can true love conquer all?

Berlie Doherty

Abela: The Girl Who Saw Lions

Abela is the touching story of two girls who apparently have nothing in common. Abela, growing up in Tanzania, is surrounded by suffering. Her father has already died and now her mother and her baby sister are desperately ill. When they die too, Abela is sent off to England with an uncertain future as an illegal immigrant. Rosa, growing up in England, has everything she could possibly want. She certainly doesn't want a sister or brother yet her mother wants to adopt a child. Is there room in Rosa's family for an African orphan haunted by lions? Is there room in all their hearts?