

Lower KS3 Recommended Reading

July 2021

The following offers some suggestions for reading in the holiday and the autumn term for girls due to enter Years 7 and 8. They are all good examples of the best books currently available, both old and new (excluding standard classic titles which the girls should be reading additionally). All are available from the School Library.

Happy Reading! From the Library and the English department

Siobhan Curham

Clementine and Rudy

Rudy is a street artist; Clementine is a poet. The day after Rudy sneaks out late one night and posts her first piece of artwork, Clem discovers it, awestruck. She takes a photo, writes a poem in response and posts them together on Instagram. Soon the two fifteen-year-olds meet and begin their unique friendship, one that nurtures creativity and results in a special creative collaboration. The girls may be from very different backgrounds, and experiencing difficulties at home, but each strives to be true to herself and follow her dreams.

Rebecca Westcott & Libby Scott

Can You See Me?

Tally is ten years old and she's just like her friends. Well, sometimes she is. If she tries really hard to be. Because there's something that makes Tally not the same. Something she can't cover up, no matter how hard she tries: Tally is autistic. Tally's autism means there are things that bother her even though she wishes they didn't. It means that some people misunderstand, her and feel frustrated by her. People think that Tally doesn't realise what they're thinking, but Tally sees, hears and notices - all of it. And, that's not the easiest thing to live with.

Eleanor Updale

Montmorency

When a petty thief falls through a glass roof trying to escape the police, a series of bizarre events unfolds. He is chosen as a medical guinea pig where he comes into some very interesting information - a map of Sir Joseph Bazalgette's new sewage system. Memorising the system and adopting the affections of a rich young gentleman he becomes the most elusive burglar in Victorian London. But he leads a double life: he is Scarper - who robs jewels and makes his escape through the sewers - and Montmorency - a fashionable, wealthy gentleman. But Montmorency's new existence is fraught with danger. The smallest mistake could destroy both his lives...

Jenny Valentine

The Double Life of Cassiel Roadnight

Two boys. One identity. The Double Life of Cassiel Roadnight is the story of a boy who assumes the identity of a missing teenager and in-so-doing unearths a series of shattering family secrets -- and the truth about who he really is. "I didn't choose to be him, I didn't pick Cassiel Roadnight out of a line of possible people who looked just like me. I just let it happen. I just wanted it to be true. That's all I did wrong... at the beginning..."

Kenneth Oppel*The Nest*

Steve is full of worries. Worries about his sick baby brother who is fighting to survive and worries about his parents who are struggling to cope. There's also a menacing wasps' nest swelling in the roof of the family home and sinister phone calls. When a mysterious wasp queen invades his dreams, offering to fix everything, Steve thinks his prayers have been answered. All he has to do is say yes. But "yes" is a powerful word. It's also a dangerous one. And once uttered, can it be taken back? Steve is stuck in a nightmare he can't seem to wake up from.

Karen McCombie*Catching Falling Stars*

It's 1940. Gloria and her little brother have been evacuated to the countryside to get away from the dangers of the Blitz in London. But their new home isn't as friendly as they'd hoped. The woman they're living with, Miss Saunders, is strict, severe and an outcast in the village. And the local children and other evacuees are equally unwelcoming. But Gloria quickly learns that nothing is ever as it seems. As possible friends turn out to be enemies, and once sworn enemies might be the best possible friends, Gloria finally realizes that believing first impressions could mean missing out on the friendships that can last a lifetime

Roddy Doyle*Greyhound of A Girl*

A funny, warm-hearted but sad story about four generations of a family. Twelve-year-old Mary O'Hara's beloved, joke-cracking grandmother is near the end of her life. Letting go is hard - until a mysterious young woman appears at Mary's door. She is the ghost of Granny's long-dead mammy and her mission is to help her dying daughter say goodbye to the ones she loves. But first she needs to take them all to the old family farm for a visit to the past.

Ross Welford*What Not to do if You Turn Invisible*

Turning invisible at will: it's one way of curing your acne but it's far more drastic than 13 year-old Ethel Leatherhead intended when she tried a combination of untested medicines and a sunbed. It's fun at first, being invisible and aided by her friend Boydy, she manages to keep her extraordinary ability secret. But Ethel is thrown into a nightmare of lies and deception when the invisibility fails to wear off one day. She struggles to keep herself safe, to find the remedy that will make her visible again – and solve the mystery of her own birth...

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 been 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.

Lauren Wolk

Wolf Hollow (some elements may upset the squeamish!)

Despite growing up in the shadows cast by two world wars, Annabelle has lived a mostly quiet, steady life in her small Pennsylvania town. Until the day new student Betty Glengarry walks into her class. Betty quickly reveals herself to be a cruel and manipulative bully. Toby, a reclusive World War I veteran, becomes the target of Betty's attacks. While others see Toby's strangeness, Annabelle knows only kindness. When Betty disappears, suspicion falls on Tony and as tensions mount, Annabelle must find the courage to stand as a lone voice for justice.

Marie-Louise Jensen

Between Two Seas

Bound by a vow made to her dying mother, Marianne sells her few belongings and leaves Grimsby on a long and dangerous journey. Her destination is Denmark, where she will try to find her father, Lars, a fisherman her mother fell in love with many years before. As Marianne boards a boat that will carry her across the North Sea, she wonders whether she will find happiness. Will the father she has never met welcome her? Will Denmark be the fairy-tale land she has dreamt of? "Travel to Skagen and find him. Give him my letter. Seek a better life, Marianne! Promise!"...

Lucy Strange

The Ghost of Gosswater

The Lake District, 1899. The Earl of Gosswater has died, and twelve-year-old Lady Agatha has been cast out of her ancestral home - the only home she has ever known - by her cruel cousin, Clarence. In a tiny tumbledown cottage, she struggles to adjust to her new life and the stranger who claims to be her real father. Nearby, on the shores of Gosswater Lake, the spirit of another young girl will not rest. Could the ghost of Gosswater hold the key to Aggie's true identity?