

## Lower KS3 Recommended Reading

**July 2022**

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 and can be reserved on the library app or via an email to the librarian.

*Happy Reading! From the Library and the English department*

**Kereen Getten***When Life Gives You Mangoes*

Clara lives in Sycamore – an island village where nothing much happens -- at least, that's how it seems. She loves being outside and escaping to her secret hideout with her best friend Gaynah. There's only one problem: Clara can't remember anything about the previous summer. When a quirky girl called Rudy arrives from England, everything starts to change. Gaynah stops acting like a best friend and Clara, roaming across the island with Rudy, uncovers an old family secret. As the summer reaches its peak and the island storms begin, Clara's memory starts to return and she must finally face the truth of what happened last year.

**Tamsin Winter***Being Miss Nobody*

Rosalind hates her new secondary school. And there are problems at home. Her head is full of words but she finds it difficult to talk so she's a target for the school bullies who are quick to pick on someone who can't answer back. So, Rosalind starts a blog - Miss Nobody; a place to speak up, a place where she has a voice. But there's a problem... as her posts trend and social media grows against the bullies, is Miss Nobody becoming a bully herself?

**Danny Weston***The Haunting of Jessop Rise*

Alone and penniless after his father is killed in an accident, fourteen-year-old William faces the rest of his childhood in a brutal workhouse. Then his long-estranged uncle Seth sends for him, and William thinks his fortunes are changing. But arriving at Uncle Seth's grand house in Wales, William encounters a ghostly figure... and that isn't the last. It soon becomes clear that more than one ghost haunts the house. But who are they? What are they trying to tell William? And what is the dark secret that Uncle Seth is clearly keeping? William finds himself caught up in a dark and terrifying mystery - one that will test him to the very edge of reason.

**Garth Nix***Frogkisser!*

Garth Nix spins his very own fairy tale, featuring Princess Anya, who, with her loyal dog, must embark on a terribly important (capital Q) Quest to acquire the ingredients for a reversal lip balm, the vital item needed to change a frog back to a prince . . . and save her kingdom from her villainous step(step)father before she is sent to a school, far away, involving a 'slightly' perilous journey that she might not survive...

## **Susin Nielsen**

*Optimists Die First* (for mature readers - occasional strong language and some adult themes)

Ever since tragedy struck her family, Petula has learned to see danger everywhere – whether it's crossing the road or eating a poached egg. She is sent to art therapy classes to help with her anxiety attacks where she meets Jacob. Strikingly tall and confident, he's survived a different kind of disaster – he's an amputee – but he's come out smiling. At first Petula is repelled by his optimism, yet even she can't deny their chemistry together. But optimism is blind – and so is love. Their relationship blossoms... but Jacob has a secret....

## **Kiran Millwood-Hargrave**

*The Island at the End of Everything*

Ami lives on Culion, an island of blue seas and lush forests but it's also an island for people who have leprosy. Her mother is among the infected though Ami is happy and her life is full of love - until the arrival of a malicious government official Mr Zamora rocks her world. He decrees that any islander untouched by sickness must leave. Ami is almost immediately banished to another island but is desperate to return before her mother's inevitable death. She finds a strange and fragile hope in a colony of butterflies. Can they somehow lead her home before it's too late?

## **Zillah Bethell**

*A Whisper of Horses*

After the death of her mama, Serendipity finds a hidden map suggesting that life may still exist outside of Lahn Dahn. It makes Serendipity question the Minister's rule and she can't stop thinking about life beyond the high, impenetrable Emm Twenty-Five wall. She dreams of a place where horses live and roam freely – a place beyond the Minister's grip. No-one in Lahn Dan has ever seen a horse - they died out before the Gases - but there are statues of them around the city, paintings and drawings too if you know where to look. So, with the help of a trader boy called Tab, Serendipity heads into the unknown, searching for the beautiful creatures she's always dreamed of. But the Minister is behind them, determined to hunt her down. . .

## **Lisa Thompson**

*The Boy who Fooled the World*

Cole is the odd one out at school: whilst his classmates have the latest gadgets and trainers, his family struggles to make ends meet. But life looks set to change when an influential visitor to his school art lesson notices one of his paintings. It's taken away and sells for thousands of pounds at a prime London gallery. Suddenly, Cole is the toast of the international art world, the star guest on TV shows, rich beyond his wildest dreams and hailed as a boy genius! Being famous is FANTASTIC, but Cole has a guilty secret which, if exposed, will bring everything crashing down around him. A story of fame and fortune, making mistakes and learning to be true to yourself.

## **Jessica Townsend**

### *Nevermoor - The Trials of Morrigan Crow*

Morrigan Crow is cursed and is doomed to die at midnight on her eleventh birthday. But as Morrigan awaits her fate, a strange man appears. He whisks her away into the safety of a secret, magical city called Nevermoor where she must compete in four difficult and dangerous trials against hundreds of other children, each boasting an extraordinary talent that sets them apart - an extraordinary talent that Morrigan insists she does not have. To stay in the safety of Nevermoor for good, Morrigan will need to find a way to pass the tests - or she'll have to leave the city and confront her deadly fate...

## **Rebecca Stead**

### *Liar and Spy*

Georges (with a silent s) has a lot going on. He's having trouble with some boys at school, his dad has lost his job and his mum is working all the time. They've had to sell their house and move into an apartment although that brings an unexpected good thing – an unusual friend – a boy named Safer who lives on the top floor and runs a spy club. Georges signs up and is soon spying on the mysterious Mr X who lives in the apartment above Georges's. But as Georges and Safer go deeper into their Mr X plan, the line between games, lies, and reality begin to blur. Everything spins out of control. And it seems that Georges has been hiding something...

## **M G Leonard & Sam Sedgman**

### *The Highland Falcon Thief*

Harrison Beck is reluctantly joining his travel-writer Uncle Nate for the last journey of the royal train, The Highland Falcon. But as the train makes its way to Scotland, a priceless brooch goes missing, and things are suddenly a lot more interesting. As suspicions and accusations run high among the passengers, Harrison begins to investigate and uncovers a few surprises along the way. Can he solve the mystery of the jewel thief and catch the culprit before they reach the end of the line?

## **Lissa Evans**

### *Wed Wabbit*

When Fidge's little sister ends up in hospital, Fidge finds herself transported to the setting of her sister's favourite book which is occupied by thousands of Wimbley Woos - who only talk in rhyme and look like colourful plastic dustbins - and their cruel leader – a stuffed giant rabbit. In order to escape Fidge needs to solve a series of seemingly impossible clues aided by a giant plastic carrot on wheels, a cloth elephant and her (awful) cousin Graham. Yes, it sounds weird but it's funny. It's also an adventure about friendship and being the best you can be.