

## UPPER KS3/KS4 Recommended Reading

**September 2020**

The following offers some suggestions for reading for girls in Year 9 and above, bearing in mind that books at senior level will have been classified as such due to their reading age/interest and/or content. Books below, marked with a \* may have a more "contentious" content than some e.g. they might include some bad language, violence, or sexual references. However, 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 via an email to the Librarian.

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

### **David Owen**

*All the Lonely People\**

Everyone tells Kat that her online personality - confident, funny, opinionated - isn't her true self. Kat knows otherwise. The internet is her only way to cope with a bad day. But when she becomes the target of a trolling campaign, she feels she has no option but to Escape, Delete, Disappear. With her social media shut down and her website erased Kat disappears from the online world. But at the same time, her physical body begins to fade and everybody, apart from Wesley forgets that Kat ever existed. Wesley resolves to stop her disappearing completely. It might just be the only way to save himself.

### **Holly Jackson**

*A Good Girl's Guide to Murder\**

The case is closed. Five years ago, schoolgirl Andie Bell was murdered by Sal Singh. The police know he did it. Everyone in town knows he did it. Well, almost everyone. Having grown up in the small town that was consumed by the crime, Pippa Fitz-Adeleke chooses the case as the topic for her final school project. But when Pip starts uncovering secrets that someone in town desperately wants to stay hidden, what starts out as a paper file begins to become Pip's dangerous reality.

### **Philip Pullman\***

*La Belle Sauvage (The Book of Dust - Book One. Set ten years before "His Dark Materials")*

Malcolm Polstead's Oxford life has been routine, ordinary even. He is happiest playing with his daemon, Asta, in their canoe, La Belle Sauvage. But now as the rain builds, the world around Malcolm and Asta seems increasingly far from ordinary. Finding himself linked to a baby by the name of Lyra Belacqua, Malcolm is forced to undertake the challenge of his life and to make a dangerous journey that will change him and Lyra for ever.

### **Nicola Doherty**

*Lola Offline\**

Delilah Hoover has gone dark. She's quit social media, moved to Paris and changed her name to Lola Maxwell. Because she made a mistake - one she can't take back. It was all over Twitter, and it's still the first thing that comes up when you Google her. Paris is a fresh start, in a new school with new friends including smooth student politician Tariq. With awkward dates, tipsy afternoons and a perfect kiss, Lola's life as a normal teenager could be back on track... But can she ever tell people who she really is? And what happens if they find out first?

## **Frances Hardinge**

*A Skinful of Shadows*

Sometimes, when a person dies, their spirit goes looking for somewhere to hide. Some people have space within them, perfect for hiding. Makepeace has learned to defend herself from such ghosts which try to possess her, desperate for refuge, but one day a dreadful event causes her to drop her guard and now there's a spirit inside her. The spirit is wild, brutish and strong, but it may be her saviour. There is talk of civil war, and her ancestral family needs people like her to protect a dark and terrible secret. As Makepeace heads out into a country torn apart by war, she must decide which is worse: possession - or death.

## **Julia Green**

*This Northern Sky (For readers wanting something gentle, well written and descriptive. Not for those who are desperate for "something to happen".)*

Kate's parents are taking her on holiday to a cottage on a remote island in the Hebrides. Kate can't imagine anything more boring. But underneath her sulkiness, Kate is scared. Her parents have been fighting and she knows that for her parents this holiday is make or break. Once at the cottage, Kate escapes - outside, anywhere. And there she meets the warmth of the islanders, who are prepared to accept her and to listen to her. And possibly fall in love with her...

## **Karen McManus**

*Two Can Keep a Secret\**

Ellery's never been to Echo Ridge before, but she's heard all about it. It's where her aunt went missing at age sixteen, never to return. Where a murder five years ago made national news. But now Ellery is there living with a grandmother she barely knows, after her mother lands in rehab. No one knows what happened to either girl so there is unease when mysterious threats around town hint that the killer may strike again. When another girl disappears, Ellery is one of the last people to see her alive. It seems that every secret has layers in Echo Ridge. And somebody would kill to keep it hidden.

## **Emma Haughton**

*Better Left Buried*

Brother dead...best friend missing...house ransacked...stalked by a stranger...attacked in the street...And Sarah has no idea why though everything links to her brother. She never knew that he was hiding a dangerous dark secret but he clearly was. And now his actions have led the wolves to her door - and the only way out is to run. Her own life is now at risk...

## **Sarah Crossan**

*One\**

Grace and Tippi don't like being stared and sneered at, but they're used to it. They're conjoined twins - united in blood and bone. What they want is to be looked at in turn, like they truly are two people. They want real friends. And what about boys and love? But these turn into very minor issues when the girls are faced with a heart-wrenching decision. One that could change their lives more than they ever asked for.

## **Annabel Pitcher**

*My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece*

Ten-year-old Jamie Matthews has just moved to the Lake District with his dad and teenage sister, Jasmine for a 'New Start'. Five years ago, his sister's twin, Rose, was blown up by a terrorist bomb. His parents were wrecked by their grief and the family fell apart. But Jamie hasn't cried in all that time. Rose is just a distant memory to him. He is far more interested in his cat, his Spiderman T-shirt, keeping his new friend Sunya a secret from his dad and his unshakeable belief that his Mum will come back - she walked out months ago. When he sees a TV advert for a talent show, he feels certain that this will change everything and bring them all back together once and for all.

## **Hayley Long**

*Sophie Someone (Some of the language has been invented and may take time to figure it out. Persist!)*

Sophie Nieuwenleven is sort of English and sort of Belgian. Sophie and her family have lived in Belgium since she was about four years old, but she's fourteen now and has never fully understood why the family left England. Then, one day, Sophie makes a startling discovery and can finally unlock the mystery of who she really is. This is a story about identity and confusion - and feeling so utterly freaked out that you just can't put it into words. But it's also about hope. And the belief that, somehow, everything will work out. Sophie Someone is a tale of well-intentioned but stupid parenting, shock, acceptance and, ultimately, forgiveness, written in a memorable and unique language.

## **Eva Ibbotson**

*A Song for Summer*

When Ellen accepts the post of housekeeper at Hallendorf School of Music, Drama and Dance, she isn't expecting it to be quite so unusual. For deep in the beautiful Austrian countryside, she finds an eccentric magical world occupied by wild children, even wilder teachers, experimental dancers and a tortoise on wheels. Ellen is particularly intrigued by the enigmatic, and very handsome, Marek, part-time gardener and fencing teacher. Life in Hallendorf seems idyllic, but outside Hitler's Reich is casting a menacing shadow and through her

growing friendship with Marek, Ellen begins to encounter the dreadful reality of a world on the brink of war. By the time she has figured Marek out, she is completely in love with him - and equally sure that her love will never be requited.