

# Abingdon

20

## Summer Reading Challenge

18

### 1<sup>st</sup> Year Recommendations

1. **The Extinction Trials - S.M. Wilson:** In Stormchaser and Lincoln's ruined world, Stormchaser and Lincoln face a dangerous contest they will do anything to win. In a land of monsters - both human and reptilian - they can't afford to trust anyone. Perhaps not even each other...
2. **Gladiator: Fight for Freedom - Simon Scarrow:** Forced to train as a gladiator, young Marcus Cornelius Primus faces a new life of brutal training as he learns the skills of an elite warrior. He plots to take revenge on the man who killed his father and bound his mother into slavery.
3. **Finding the Fox - Ali Sparkes:** After he develops the power to shape shift into the form of a fox, Dax is offered a place at a secret government school for children like him. But before long he begins to wonder who exactly is behind the school, and what they want from the pupils there.
4. **Northern Lights - Philip Pullman:** In a world like our own yet also strangely different, 12 year-old Lyra leaves the safety of her Oxford home to track down her kidnapped friend. Her journey will take her to the far North, home of the Northern Lights, witches, an armoured bear, and a dangerous secret.
5. **Smith - Leon Garfield:** In the dangerous streets of 18th century London, a 12-year old pickpocket robs a man, then shortly after sees him being murdered. He goes on the run from the killers, only to find himself named as a suspect in the crime.
6. **Mortal Engines - Philip Reeve:** In a post-apocalyptic world where mobile cities fight for resources across the beds of dried up seas, Tom Natsworthy and the murderous Hester Shaw face a battle for survival after being flung from the fast-moving city of London into the wastelands of the Great Hunting Ground.
7. **Knights of the Borrowed Dark - Dave Rudden:** "Denizen Hardwick doesn't believe in magic - until he's ambushed by a monster created from shadows and sees it destroyed by a word made of sunlight. Between us and the shadows stand the Knights of the Borrowed Dark. Unfortunately for Denizen, he's one of them..."
8. **Eagle Trail - Paul Hansen:** At the height of World War II, the son of resistance fighters must leave his home city to travel south through France and across the Pyrenees into Spain, and from there to England, and freedom.
9. **Who Let the Gods Out? - Maz Evans:** After a shooting star crashes through the roof of his shed, Elliot has to deal with the threat of an escaped death daemon and the arrival of the Olympian Gods to recapture him. It's not at all clear that they're up to the job...
10. **All Creatures Great and Small - James Herriot:** In this funny memoir, a young vet in 1930s Yorkshire finds himself on a steep learning curve. His challenges include eccentric colleagues, incomprehensible farmers, herds of semi-feral cattle, a pet pig called Nugent and an overweight Pekingese dog called Tricki Woo.

20

# Abingdon

## Summer Reading Challenge

18

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Recommendations

1. **Murder on the Orient Express - Agatha Christie:** On a stranded train, caught in a snowdrift, a passenger suffers a horrible death - but the door to his sleeping compartment has been locked from the inside. Detective Hercule Poirot must identify the murderer - before they strike again.
2. **Wolf by Wolf - Ryan Graudin:** Every year, to mark its victory over the allied forces, the Third Reich organises a cross-continent motorcycle race. This year's contestants include a girl with strange powers and only one aim: to kill Hitler.
3. **My Family and Other Animals - Gerald Durrell:** Moving to the island of Corfu to escape the British weather, the Durrells find themselves sharing their new home with a variety of local wildlife, including geckos, bats, toads and scorpions - much to the delight of the youngest son!
4. **Emperor: The Gates of Rome - Conn Iggulden:** From brutal gladiatorial combat to the intrigue of the Senate... From the wars that secure the power of the empire to the betrayals that threaten to tear it apart... In ancient Rome, one man begins his ascent to power.
5. **The Wee Free Men - Terry Pratchett:** In Victorian London, Dodger makes a living by scavenging from the river bank and keeping a low profile. But when he rescues a young girl, suddenly everybody wants to know him... including people he really doesn't want to know...
6. **Smith - Leon Garfield:** In the dangerous streets of 18th century London, a 12-year old pickpocket robs a man, then shortly after sees him being murdered. He goes on the run from the killers, only to find himself named as a suspect in the crime.
7. **Below Zero - Dan Smith:** When Zak's plane crash-lands on Outpost Zero, a small Antarctic research base in one of the most isolated places on Earth, he discovers a cold, dark nightmare that somehow only he can beat.
8. **Boys Don't Knit - Tom Easton:** After an unfortunate incident, Ben Fletcher is forced to undertake community service. To his horror he ends up in a knitting group - but then it turns out that he's really good at it. If only he can stop his friends finding out...
9. **This Mortal Coil - Emily Suwada:** A terrible virus is raging across the world. One girl has been left clues that could lead her to the vaccine created by her now dead father. The closer she gets, the more she finds herself at risk from a shadowy organization. But it's far too late to turn back.
10. **A Skinful of Shadows - Francis Hardinge:** Every night, Makepeace protects herself from the ghosts which try to possess her. Then a dreadful event causes her to drop her guard. Now there's a ghost inside her - but in a time of fear and danger, it might be her only defence.

# Abingdon

20

## Summer Reading Challenge

18

### 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Year Recommendations

- 1. The Knife of Never Letting Go - Patrick Ness:** In New Prentissstown, everyone can hear everyone else's thoughts in a constant, overwhelming Noise. There is no privacy - no secrets. Until one boy encounters a spot of complete silence, and finds himself on the run from everyone he thought he knew.
- 2. Fatherland - Robert Harris:** It's April 1964 and Adolf Hitler is approaching his 75th birthday. A Berlin detective investigating a murder uncovers signs of a conspiracy that could go to the very top of the German Reich.
- 3. Scythe - Neil Shusterman:** In a world without disease, war and crime, population growth is limited by professional killers - 'scythes'. Chosen by lottery, Citra and Rowan are competing to be an apprentice scythe. Whoever wins has to kill the loser...
- 4. After the Fire - Will Hill:** Father John controls everything inside The Fence. Because Father John knows the truth. He knows what is right, and what is wrong. He knows what is coming. But one person is starting to have doubts...
- 5. The War of the Worlds - H.G. Wells:** Gigantic Martian killing machines destroy all in their path, and feast on the warm blood of trapped, still-living human prey. The forces of Earth, however, may prove harder to beat than they at first appear.
- 6. Kidnapped - Robert Louis Stevenson:** Tricked out of his inheritance, kidnapped, then shipwrecked off the west coast of Scotland, David Balfour finds himself fleeing for his life in the dangerous company of Jacobite outlaw and suspected assassin Alan Breck Stewart.
- 7. Looking for Alaska - John Green:** Miles Halter is hoping for excitement at his new boarding school. What he didn't expect and could never be ready for is Alaska Young. Funny, sexy and completely screwed-up, she will pull his life inside out.
- 8. The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy - Douglas Adams:** For Arthur Dent, it's an ordinary day, until his house is demolished by bulldozers and the earth is demolished to make way for a hyper-space bypass. At least he has The hitchhiker's guide to the galaxy to help him, with its hopeful message: Don't Panic.
- 9. Reaper Man - Terry Pratchett:** Death is missing - presumed...er...gone. Chaos ensues. But on a little farm far, far away, a tall dark - and very thin - stranger is turning out to be really good with a scythe...
- 10. One of Us is Lying - Karen McManus:** One of Us Is Lying is the story of what happens when five strangers walk into detention and only four walk out alive. Everyone is a suspect, and everyone has something to hide. Pay close attention and you might solve this.

# Abingdon

20

## Summer Reading Challenge

18

### 5<sup>th</sup> Year Recommendations

- 1. I Am Legend - Richard Matheson:** The last living man on Earth spends his days as a hunter, seeking out and killing the vampires that were once human, like him. At night he barricades himself in his home and prays for the dawn. How long can he survive?
- 2. Flowers for Algernon - Daniel Keyes:** A man with an IQ of 68 has his intelligence vastly increased through experimental surgery, but being intelligent turns out to be a bitter reward, as he discovers what people really think of him.
- 3. The Talented Mr Ripley - Patricia Highsmith:** Tom Ripley is in search of money, success and the good life, so much so that he's willing to kill for them. When his new-found happiness is threatened, his response is as swift as it is shocking.
- 4. The Martian - Andy Weir:** An astronaut is stranded on Mars, in a Habitat designed to last 31 days with rescue at least two years away. A gripping story of survival in space in which human ingenuity strives against seemingly impossible odds.
- 5. The Beach - Alex Garland:** A young traveller in Thailand finds his way to a fabled hidden beach and a new way of life. But what seems like paradise turns out to be full of serpents, and soon turns into hell...
- 6. Into the Wild - John Krakauer:** The true story of a young man who walks deep into the Alaskan wilderness and whose SOS note was found four months later. Into the wild explores the obsession which leads some people to explore the outer limits of self and leave civilization behind.
- 7. White Fang - Jack London:** White Fang tells the story of a young wolf-dog's journey from the wild into human territory. In the process, White Fang learns that civilisation is every bit as vicious and violent as nature – and that survival is only awarded to the fittest.
- 8. The Humans - Matt Haig:** Professor Andrew Martin becomes the host for an alien, sent to earth to ensure that humanity does not acquire a devastating technology. What the alien didn't bargain for was being drawn into the messiness of Professor Martin's life.
- 9. Touching the Void - Joe Simpson:** Descending from the peak of the remote Siula Grande, Simon Yates saves his own life by letting his climbing partner fall 150 feet to his death - or so he thinks. But his partner survives, and begins an agonising crawl back to base camp...
- 10. Orphan X - Greg Hurwitz:** Raised and trained in a top secret programme, Evan Smoak used to be sent to bad places to do bad things to bad people. Now he's broken with the past - but the past isn't finished with him.

20

Abingdon

Summer Reading  
Challenge

18

Upper School Recommendations

1. **Nineteen Eighty-Four - George Orwell:** As part of his secret rebellion against the totalitarian brutality of the world he lives in, Winston Smith begins a forbidden love affair that leads him deeper into the inner workings of the Party, and ultimately to betrayal.
2. **Kafka on the Shore - Haruki Murakami:** In a land where cats talk with people., fish tumble from the sky and a forest harbours soldiers apparently un-aged since World War II, a troubled man struggles to find the identity of both a killer and their victim.
3. **A Tale of Two Cities - Charles Dickens:** Two men, enmeshed by their love for the same woman, are drawn against their will to the vengeful, bloodstained streets of Paris at the height of the Reign of Terror and soon fall under the lethal shadow of La Guillotine.
4. **Half of a Yellow Sun - Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie:** As the horrific Biafran War erupts, a boy from a poor village, a young woman who has abandoned a life of privilege to live with her lover, and a shy English writer are drawn together and torn apart in ways they couldn't imagine.
5. **Wolf Hall - Hilary Mantel:** Thomas Cromwell, a political genius with a deadly expertise in manipulating people and events, battles to defeat a self-interested parliament and keep the goodwill of King Henry VIII, whose moods fluctuate between romantic passions and murderous rage.
6. **Into the Wild - John Krakauer:** The true story of a young man who walks deep into the Alaskan wilderness and whose SOS note was found four months later. Into the wild explores the obsession which leads some people to explore the outer limits of self and leave civilization behind.
7. **Crime and Punishment - Fyodor Dostoevsky:** Raskolnikov commits a brutal double murder. His conflicting feelings of self-loathing and pride, of contempt for and need of others, and of despair and hope, lead him to probe the motives and consequences of his crime.
8. **Shadowland - Peter Straub:** Two boys are united by their battle to survive the oppressive regime of a sadistic headmaster. But when they spend the summer holiday together at a country estate, their interest in magic suddenly takes a sinister and dangerous turn.
9. **The Goldfinch - Donna Tartt:** After Theo survives a bomb blast that tears most of his life apart, he becomes obsessed with a painting. His obsession draws him into a criminal underworld and towards the centre of an increasingly dangerous circle.
10. **Wonder Boys - Michael Chabon:** A tale of misplaced talent, forbidden talent, heartsick love, told over the course of a chaotic weekend involving a tuba, a dead dog, Marilyn Monroe's ermine-lined jacket and a squashed boa constrictor.

# Abingdon

20

## Summer Reading Challenge

18

### Challenges: How You Can Win A Prize...

These are open to any year group. There will be edible prizes for EVERYONE who submits a complete entry (available at the start of term). The size of the edible prize will be relative to the quality of the entry.

The top entries will also receive Amazon vouchers. Again, size of prize will be relative to quality!

The deadline for entries will be the Friday of the first full week back at school.

#### Reading Challenges

- **The 'book a week' challenge.** Read a book every week, including at least two from this list i.e. 8 books over the summer holidays. Submit a short review of your thoughts and rating out of 10 for each book together with a signature and comment from someone at home to confirm they've seen you reading these books. You can use the template we have attached or come up with your own format.

- **The 'book a fortnight' challenge.** Read a book every fortnight, including at least one from this list i.e. 4 books over the summer holidays. Submit a short review of your thoughts and rating out of 10 for each book together with a signature and comment from someone at home to confirm they've seen you reading these books. You can use the template we have attached or come up with your own format.







National Poetry Day is on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October, and there will be a range of events happening in school.

The theme for National Poetry Day this year is **Change**.

Like last year, we'll be having a poetry competition with Lower, Middle and Upper School categories. There will be a number of great prizes to win, and we'd love you to enter.

To give yourself the best chance to write your best poem, we'd suggest you start to write your entry over the summer.

[Here is a link to the National Poetry Day website, where you can find a range of inspirational poems to get you started.](#)

## **Rules:**

We will accept poems in any style, form or length. Your poem does not have to be related to the theme of 'Change', however it might be a good theme to get you started.