



From: The Librarian

Recommended Reading for Lower School Students

To encourage and support reading for pleasure amongst Lower School students, I've compiled a list of recommended books, which you'll find below.

Many children stop reading as they progress through secondary school because they struggle to find books that appeal to them. This list will help. While I know that not every book on the list will appeal to every student, I will be very surprised if your child can't find something they think is worth a second glance.

The recommendations are based on what other students at Abingdon have enjoyed plus new publications that I think are likely to have widespread appeal. These are books which look to the heart as well as the brain, which is essential if your child is to continue (or start) making reading a frequent habit.

While the books on the list vary in terms of genre and style, every one of the books offers a gripping story plus ideas and vocabulary that should stretch and challenge your child's thinking. At the same time, some books are more difficult than others, to reflect the varying abilities of readers.

Although I've split the list into First Year and Second Year books, many if not all are equally appropriate for both year groups, so don't feel bound to one half of the list or the other.

The list *doesn't* include books which boys are likely to discover on their own, such as the Diary of a Wimpy Kid and Cherub series.

All of these books are available from the school library, which stocks between five and fifteen copies of each title. They're also readily available from public libraries and bookshops.

If your child wants further recommendations, I'm very happy to give tailored advice, drawing on what I've read, what other students have recommended to me, and the particular interests of your child.

Dr Graham Gardner
Librarian

From: The Librarian

Abingdon School, Park Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 1DE

Tel: +44 (0)1235 521563

Fax: +44 (0)1235 849079

www.abingdon.org.uk



ABINGDON

Recommended reads for First Years

Title	Author	Genre
<i>Silverwing</i>	Kenneth Oppel	Animal stories
<i>Viper's daughter</i>	Michelle Paver	Historical fiction / fantasy
<i>Mortal engines</i>	Philip Reeve	Science fiction / adventure
<i>Robin Hood: hacking, heists & flaming arrows</i>	Robert Muchamore	Action
<i>The graveyard book</i>	Neil Gaiman	Supernatural
<i>Gladiator: fight for freedom</i>	Alex Scarrow	Historical fiction / action
<i>Boy 87</i>	Ele Fountain	Social realism
<i>Orion lost</i>	Alastair Chisholm	Science fiction / adventure
<i>Murder most unladylike</i>	Robin Stevens	Crime / school / historical
<i>Hatchet</i>	Gary Paulsen	Adventure / survival
<i>Summoner: the novice</i>	Taran Matharu	Fantasy / action
<i>Buddy</i>	Nigel Hinton	Family / social realism
<i>The kingdom by the sea</i>	Robert Westall	Historical fiction / war
<i>Worst. Holiday. Ever.</i>	Charlie Higson	Humour
<i>Dark lord: the teenage years</i>	Jamie Thomson	Humour
<i>The soul hunters</i>	Chris Bradford	Action / fantasy
<i>Spud</i>	John van de Ruit	Humour / school

Abingdon School, Park Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 1DE

Tel: +44 (0)1235 521563

Fax: +44 (0)1235 849079

www.abingdon.org.uk



ABINGDON

From: The Librarian

Recommended reads for Second Years

Title	Author	Genre
<i>Here lies Arthur</i>	Phillip Reeve	Historical fiction
<i>Haven</i>	Simon Lelic	Thriller
<i>The screaming staircase</i>	Jonathan Stroud	Supernatural
<i>The secret diary of Adrian Mole aged 13 and 3/4</i>	Sue Townsend	Humour / social realism
<i>The scarecrows</i>	Robert Westall	Supernatural
<i>Knights of the borrowed dark</i>	Dave Rudden	Supernatural / fantasy
<i>She is not invisible</i>	Marcus Sedgwick	Mystery / adventure
<i>The territory</i>	Sarah Govett	Science fiction
<i>Young samurai: the way of the warrior</i>	Chris Bradford	Action / historical fiction
<i>Auslander</i>	Paul Dowswell	Historical fiction / war
<i>The private blog of Joe Cowley</i>	Ben Davis	Humour / social realism
<i>Unstoppable</i>	Dan Freedman	Sport / family / social realism
<i>Spud</i>	John van de Ruit	Humour / social realism
<i>The outlaws Scarlett & Browne</i>	Jonathan Stroud	Adventure / science fiction
<i>Half brother</i>	Kenneth Oppel	Family / animals
<i>The edge</i>	Alan Gibbons	Thriller / social realism