



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 students 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**

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## 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 &amp; 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              |

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|--|------------------|---------------------------------|
| <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 &amp; Browne</i>               | Jonathan Stroud  | Adventure / science fiction     |
| <i>Half brother</i>                                    | Kenneth Oppel    | Family / animals                |
| <i>The edge</i>  | Alan Gibbons     | Thriller / social realism       |