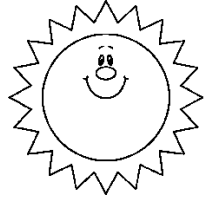


THE GREAT BIG SUMMER READING LIST



Space Jackers by Huw Powell
Followed by The Lost Sword and The Pirate King

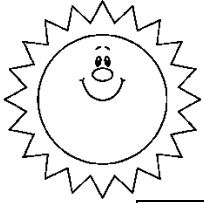
Abandoned as a baby on the planet Remota, deep in the seventh solar system, Jake Cutler lives a sheltered life. But all that changes when his home is invaded by ruthless space pirates and he is forced to go on the run with a bounty hunter and the suspicious-looking crew of a spaceship called the *Dark Horse*. The only clue to Jake's past is a mysterious crystal amulet he has always worn, and he must now battle both space pirates and the sinister Interstellar Navy before he can discover his true identity – and his destiny. This is a very readable, action-packed book, perfect for Star Wars fans!

The Jam Doughnut that Ruined My Life by Mark Lowery

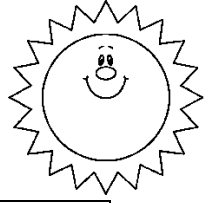
This is the first book in the series of 'Roman Garstang Disasters'. The other two books are called *The Chicken Nugget Ambush* and the recently published *Attack of the Woolly Jumper*. Roman is obsessed with food - particularly Squidgy Splodge raspberry-jam doughnuts - but after his Monday morning snack leads to a sticky week of jam-fuelled disaster he realises that things are not always as sugar-coated as they might seem. This book is one of three books shortlisted for the younger reader's section of the national Children's Book Award.

Sputnik's Guide to Life on Earth by Frank Cottrell Boyce

This book is a mixture of humour and science fiction, underpinned by a very real modern story of a little boy, Prez, brought up by a grandfather he adores, but now separated from him and feeling isolated and scared. Prez meets Sputnik, a small, loud alien in a kilt who tells him that the planet is about to be destroyed unless he can find ten things worth seeing or doing on Earth. But there are two problems: Prez's list is not quite the same as Sputnik's; and everyone else who looks at Sputnik thinks he's a dog...



THE GREAT BIG SUMMER READING LIST



Who Let the Gods Out? by Maz Evans

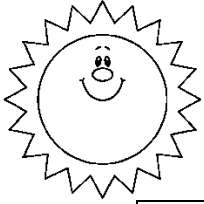
Elliot's mum is ill and his home is under threat, but a shooting star crashes to earth and changes his life forever. The star is Virgo - a young Zodiac goddess on a mission. But the pair accidentally release Thanatos, a wicked death daemon imprisoned beneath Stonehenge, and must then turn to the old Olympian gods for help. After centuries of cushy retirement, are Zeus and his crew up to the task of saving the world - and solving Elliot's problems too? Anyone who enjoys the Percy Jackson series, with its mix of Greek mythology and humour, will probably love this one!

The Erth Dragons: The Wearle by Chris D'Lacey* *Followed by Dark Wyng

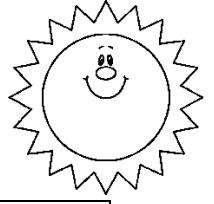
The Wearle are a colony of dragons who came to Erth to find out what happened to their previous colony that never returned. They have claimed the mountains as their domain and have driven the 'hom', man, from their territory and keep them at bay by patrols along a scorch line. This line literally burned into the earth is a clear marker and patrolled well by the 'skalers' as the men call them. But Ren is a young boy who has a fascination with the dragons, and Gabriel is a young dragon out to prove himself. So things are about to change... A wonderful story of dragons, friendship and wisdom.

The Unwanted by Lisa McMann* *Followed by Island of Silence, Island of Fire, Island of Legends, Island of Shipwrecks, Island of Graves and Island of Dragons

On the day of Purge in the totalitarian society of Quill, 13-year-olds learn if they are deemed 'Wanted' to attend the university, 'Necessary' to tend the land or 'Unwanted' and purged. Without a good-bye from his Wanted identical brother Aaron, Alex Stowe and the other Unwanted travel to the destination where they expect to be eliminated, only to discover a stunning secret - behind the mirage of the "death farm" there is instead a lush and magical place called Artime. Here they begin to explore responsibility and free thinking for the first time and their creative skills, so shunned in Quill, are honed for battle against the Quillitary.



THE GREAT BIG SUMMER READING LIST



Railhead by Philip Reeve
Followed by Black Light Express

The Great Network is a place of drones and androids, Hive Monks and Station Angels. It is a place with a thousand gates, where sentient trains criss-cross the galaxy in a heartbeat. It is also a place of great dangers - especially for someone who rides the rails and rides his luck the way Zen Starling does. Every page of this book adds an imaginative or colourful twist to life on the Great Network, yet this author's astonishing imagination means it all feels perfectly reasonable.

Black Urban Outlaws by Peter Jay
Followed by Blackout, Lockdown, Counterstrike and Shockwave

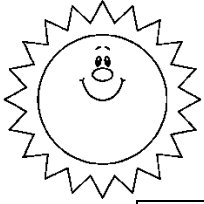
Jack, Charlie, Slink, Obi and Wren are a group of super-skilled children who, from a bunker deep beneath the city of London, plan their missions to steal money from the rich to give to those in need. A heady combination of children living a life free from rules, with adventures full of the latest gadgets is music to children's ears.

Josh Lacey The Island of Thieves
Followed by The Sultan's Tigers

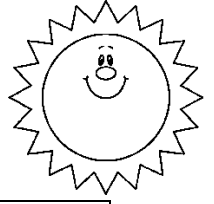
Tom Trelawney was looking for excitement, but he got more than he bargained for! When his parents left him with his eccentric uncle Harvey for a few days, they had no idea that he would immediately set off for South America on a quest for hidden gold. This is a good, old-fashioned treasure hunt, set in the modern day.

Erin Hunter The 'Warrior Cats' Series

Six titles set in a rich and exciting feline fantasy world, where epic battles for territory and honour are played out. Start with ***Into the Wild***. If you like this series, there are four more 'Warriors' series, plus series about bears ('Seekers') and dogs ('Survivors').



THE GREAT BIG SUMMER READING LIST



Silverwing by Kenneth Oppel
Followed by Sunwing and Firewing

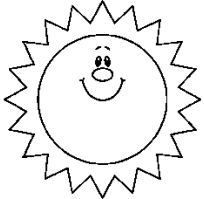
Shade, a young bat and the runt of his colony, is determined to prove himself on the perilous winter migration, but his boldness leads him into great danger. I read and loved this trilogy years ago but it has now been recently reprinted with brand new covers.

The World's Worst Children 2 by David Walliams

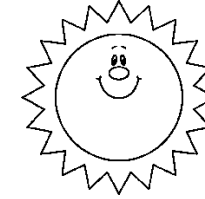
The brilliant follow-up to David Walliams' bestseller *The World's Worst Children*! Ten more stories about a brand new gang of hilariously horrible kids from everyone's favourite children's author, illustrated in glorious full colour by Tony Ross. If you thought you had read about the World's Worst Children already, you're in for a rather nasty shock. The beastly boys and gruesome girls in this book are even ruder, even more disgusting and WORSE than you could ever imagine! This gorgeous hardback collection of ten stories from the master himself, David Walliams, will make you snort with laughter and thank your lucky stars that you don't know anyone like Gruesome Griselda or Fussy Frankie in real life. It also features a special appearance from fan-favourite Raj! Gloriously illustrated in full colour throughout by artistic genius Tony Ross, *The World's Worst Children 2* is a side-splitting companion to David's blockbuster hit, *The World's Worst Children*.

The Last Wild by Piers Torday

The story of 12-year-old Kester, who discovers he can telepathically communicate with animals – and finds the last ones left alive in the world after a mysterious plague has almost wiped them out. It's a wonderful book, followed by ***The Dark Wild*** and ***The Wild Beyond***. Definitely, one of those books you read by torchlight long after you've been told to turn the light off!



THE GREAT BIG SUMMER READING LIST



The Last Dragonslayer by Jasper Fforde

Followed by The Song of the Quarkbeast and The Eye of Zoltar

15-year-old Jennifer Strange runs an employment agency for soothsayers and sorcerers, but magic is fading and times are hard - even magic carpets are reduced to pizza delivery. This witty and satirical book can be read at many levels, so it's a 'must-read' for fantasy fans of any age!

The Letter for the King by Tonke Dragt

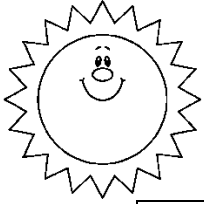
Followed by *The Secrets of the Wild Wood*. When 16-year-old Tiuri answers a desperate call for help, he finds himself on a perilous mission that could cost him his life. He must deliver a secret letter to the King - a letter upon which the future of the entire realm depends. This is a fast-moving, pure fantasy quest- a European classic at last available in English. Last year's Year 6's discovered this book and urged me to read it - it's a fantastic read and comes highly recommended. I loved it!

Coram Boy by Jamila Gavin

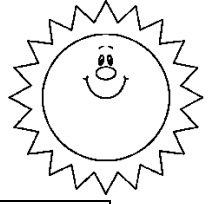
In the late 1700's the circumstances of birth meant everything. Toby and Aaron may both be living at Coram's Hospital for orphans, but Toby has been rescued from a life of slave labour in a faraway country, while Aaron is the illegitimate son of the heir to a large estate. Despite only being published in 2000, this gripping book has already achieved 'classic' status. Follow reading this book with a visit to the Foundling museum in London.

Moonlocket by Peter Bunzl

Peter Bunzl continues the adventures of the stars of the hugely popular **Cogheart** in his new adventure which has all the charm and appeal of his debut. Robert is now living with Lily and her father and their household of mechanical friends and helpers, but he misses his father very much, and is still hoping that something will bring his mother back to him. The adventure escalates with the escape from prison of a notorious criminal and there seems to be a link between the



THE GREAT BIG SUMMER READING LIST



thief's target, the beautiful Moonlocket, and Robert. There are more vivid scenes on the ground and in the air, and the characters, both human and mechanical, have real heart. Original, and exciting this is a delight.

King Boo by Adam Stower

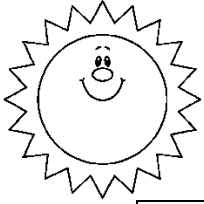
A glorious romp of a story full of confusion and chaos but with a strong message about trusting yourself and standing up to bullies. Terrorised by Monty Grabbe, the very nastiest school bully you can imagine, Ben hides under the rubbish bin – one of the bullies favourite places of persecution – and finds himself in a twisting tunnel that leads him to somewhere quite unrecognisable and apparently a long, long way away. Now in the land of King Co, a bearded female ruler, Ben enjoys some stinky, splotchy, squelchy adventures in which he also defeats Monty. Told in words and pictures.

The Incredible Billy Wild by Joanna Nadin

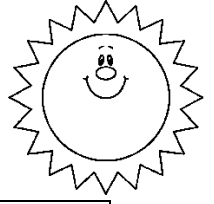
"When Billy Wild finds a greyhound hiding in his garden shed it feels like a miracle, and as Billy is already writing to God (holiday homework), maybe it really is. Animals are important agents of change in children's literature and the arrival of Dog, as the greyhound becomes known, has a huge impact. Billy is sure that Dog will melt his father's heart, which she eventually does, but she brings Billy, his dad and his brothers all closer and helps them to be more able to cope with the loss of the boys' mum too. Nadin sets out unashamedly to pull on the heartstrings and succeeds completely, but she also fills the story with humour, and a real sense of life as it is lived. This is one to recommend to readers who enjoyed **Millions** by Frank Cottrell Boyce, another brilliantly funny and beautifully written book about love, loss and family." www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk

Letters from the Lighthouse by Emma Carroll

It's 1941 and the Second World War rages on longer than anyone anticipated. Reeling from the death of their father and the disappearance of their sister Sukie, Olive and her brother are evacuated to the coast of Devon. After



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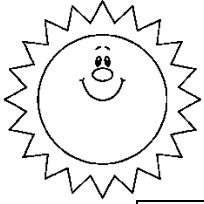
discovering a strangely coded message that she's certain has something to do with Sukie's disappearance, Olive embarks on a dangerous adventure as she's determined to get to the bottom of the mystery. Emma Carroll has a wonderful talent for bringing historic events to life for today's young readers and with *Letters from the Lighthouse* continues to create an enthralling, thrilling read, whilst introducing situations and characters that are still relevant in our world today. www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk

Finding Gobi The TRUE STORY of one Little Dog's Big Journey by Dion Leonard

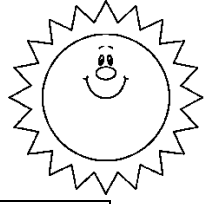
A retelling of marathon runner Dion Leonard's bestselling true story, this is the kind of book that young readers absolutely love. Leonard was competing in a gruelling race across the Gobi Desert when he came across a little stray dog. For some reason, the two bonded and Gobi, as he called her, was soon running alongside Leonard, providing him with real encouragement and support. By the time they finished the race, the two were inseparable, and Leonard knew that he wanted to take the little dog home to Scotland, no matter what it cost. It proved very difficult, especially when Gobi went missing in China, while Leonard was in Britain. After moments of real danger, and through a combination of luck, love and hard work, the two were finally reunited. www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk

Aubrey and the Terrible Ladybirds by Horatio Clare

A sequel to the award winning *Aubrey and the Terrible Yoot*, Horatio Clare tells an entertaining new story about his hero Aubrey, who this time wants to get away from his parents' fighting – and gets involved in trying to save the world while he is about it. Aubrey's special gift is that he can talk to animals and understand everything that they say so, when a spider invites him to help her save the world, he sets off on an amazing adventure across time and space. From the animals Aubrey learns much about relationships the vagaries of and about how everyone must share if the world is to be a better place. www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk



THE GREAT BIG SUMMER READING LIST



Rover and the Big Fat Baby by Roddy Doyle

The BFB (Big Fat Baby) is missing! Can Rover the wonder dog and his little nephew Messi (who is actually very tidy) track her down? While Rover and co. are hot on the trail of the BFB, via Granny Mack's backpack, the post lady's basket and a plane bound for Africa, it looks like the Giggles are about to run out of poo ...And without an urgent delivery from Rover, how will they be able to give the Giggler Treatment to grumpy adults and help kids all over the country? Rover returns in a brand-new adventure in the bestselling series by Booker Prize-winner Roddy Doyle.

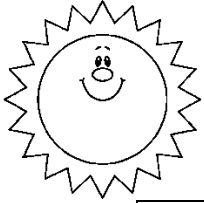
School Ship Tobermory by Alexander McCall Smith

Alexander McCall Smith has taken the ever-popular set up for a proper children's story – group of plucky kids, no parents – and added to the scope for adventure tenfold by setting it on a tall ship. Twins Ben and Fee have grown up on a submarine because their parents are marine scientists. Now, nearly 13, it's time they went to school and they are enrolled at a very unusual one: the School Ship Tobermory. They've only just begun to learn the ropes when they and their new friends spot some suspicious activity on board another ship supposedly being used in a film. The story is great fun, with some real suspense, and the descriptions of life afloat make it sound very tempting indeed: readers will agree with Ben when he decides that there's nothing better than being at sea with friends, the empty sky above you and the wind in your hair.

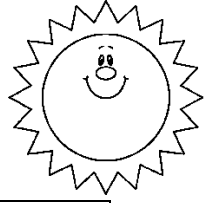
Danny Dingle's Fantastic Finds the Jet of Justice by Angie Lake

In a nutshell: comics-inspired madcap adventure with the irrepressible Danny Dingle

"Would-be inventor and comics-obsessive Danny Dingle and his best mate Percy McDuff are back in a raucous new adventure. It's the holidays and after a series of accidents and mishaps caused by their inventions, Mum has had enough and decides that for the safety of the family, and the neighbourhood, Danny should go to summer camp. Danny decides this could be good, until he discovers that his least favourite person Gareth Trumpshaw is billeted in the same cabin. The stage is set for a summer holiday like no other! The action is non-stop and full of incidents that will have children laughing out loud. Packed with illustrations, this is part novel, part comic and all fun."



THE GREAT BIG SUMMER READING LIST



The Dragonsitter Detective by Josh Lacey

"As fans of this excellent series will know, young Edward Smith-Pickle is often called in to dragon-sit for his Uncle Morton's two dragons. This time he's in left charge while Uncle Morton hunts a Kraken but something terrible happens: Ziggy and her son Arthur are dragon-napped! As ever, the action is described by Edward in typically pithy but action-packed emails to his uncle, and his uncle's occasional laid-back replies. The format makes the stories particularly immediate, not a word is wasted in the telling but the reader has more than enough information to fill in the gaps in Edward's narrative. Hugely enjoyable, these sophisticated little stories are accessible to all."

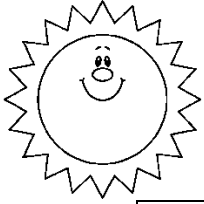
Running on the Roof of the World by Jess Butterworth

In a Nutshell: Spirit of survival abounds on an epic Himalayan journey

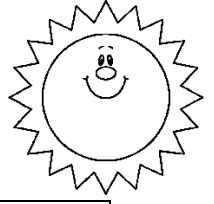
A captivatingly classic adventure in which two children battle extreme political and environmental hostilities as they journey from Tibet to India. By day Tash's dad writes for the authority-controlled local newspaper. By night he writes leaflets for the resistance. On this particular night, after a local tailor sets himself alight to protest the regime, soldiers seize Tash's parents. With a defiant determination that belies her 12 years, Tash wastes no time in putting a plan into action. "*I have the luck of the sky dragon,*" she encourages herself, thinking of her dad's words as she and best friend Sam embark on an extraordinary journey to India, where they hope to secure the support of the Dalai Lama. But time is against them, as is the terrain. Winter is on its way, and the perilous paths of the Himalayan Mountains will soon be blocked by snow. And then there's the snipers who appear through the mists, and the bear tracks that appear in the snow and, all the while, Tash and Sam are struggling to decipher a coded message from her father.

The Adventures of John Blake: Mystery of the Ghost Ship by Philip Pullman

"Master story-teller Philip Pullman is as brilliantly creative in this gripping, multi-narrative graphic novel story as ever. In an adventure which both pays homage to the best-traditions of the past and dashes into the future so enabling it to give an interesting commentary on our own time, Pullman's lively cast of characters travel through time and place. At the centre of the adventure is a mysterious ghost ship, the *Mary Alice*, crewed by men from all times including ancient Rome, the seventeenth century and the present. But someone in the present is desperate to get their hands on the boat and will stop at nothing to do so. When contemporary teenager Serena falls from the family yacht she is rescued by crew member John Blake. How can he evade the present day evil and return her safely to her family? Pullman's brevity and storytelling power are superbly realised in Fred Fordham's



THE GREAT BIG SUMMER READING LIST



atmospheric and equally taut illustrations. With the sea at the heart of them all, they conjure up the different times and places of the several narratives and define the characters in them. The result is a delight of a book for readers of all ages."

Winnie and Wilbur: Disgusting Dinners and Other Stories by Laura Owen

"Winnie the witch and her black cat Wilbur are deservedly some of the most popular characters in contemporary children's books. This bumper volume contains twelve different adventures, involving them in a variety of entertaining and unusual domestic dramas. As always, Winnie is full of ideas, not all of them very practical, and Wilbur is the perfect foil, patient, long-suffering, supportive. Their escapades will keep children turning the pages effortlessly, and Korky Paul's extraordinarily inventive black and white illustrations crackle with life and comic detail. Recommended holiday reading, or indeed anytime reading."

The City of Secret Rivers by Jacob Sager Weinstein

In a nutshell: breath-taking magical adventure on the banks of London's underground rivers

"Hyacinth Hayward, newly arrived in the UK from the US, is already struggling with culture shock when her mum is kidnapped by the strangest postmen ever and she herself is plunged (literally) into extraordinary adventure. Amongst the mass of magical quest adventures, *The City of Secret Rivers* stands out and not just because of its cast of fascinating characters (unscrupulous sewer dwelling cockney criminals and a possibly malevolent but extremely polite giant pig included), or its singular setting (the banks of London's underground rivers); the sheer invention and wit of author Jacob Sager Weinstein makes this a special read and every page crackles with originality and energy. Outlandish fun!"