



THE GREAT BIG SPRING HALF TERM READING LIST!



<p>GERARD SIGGINS RUGBY FLYER.</p>	<p>GERARD SIGGINS - RUGBY FLYER - If you have a young rugby fan in your life who hasn't yet discovered this great series, drop everything and buy a copy now. A mix of irresistible rugby action - Gerard Siggins was a sports journalist and can really write the moves - and historical mystery, it stars talented young player Eoin Madden. Loyalties are tested when he's given a place at summer camp with his team Munster's arch rivals Leinster, but Eoin gets that it's all about playing up and playing the game. Eoin has another unusual talent too, he can see ghosts. This brings him into contact with Alexander Obolensky, whose try for England against the All Blacks in 1936 is rugby legend, and a treasure hunt that dates back to Tsarist Russia. If this sounds far-fetched, it's completely plausible in the context and gives the story an even broader appeal.</p> <p>There are three more books in this series, and readers will also enjoy Tom Palmer's Rugby Academy series.</p>
<p>Letters from the Lighthouse by Emma Carroll</p>	<p>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 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.</p>

	<p>Olive is a wonderful protagonist. Being an evacuee she has an understanding of the prejudice that can come from lack of understanding. The thing that touched me most within this wonderful novel was the opportunity to hear the stories behind all those effected by war along with the refugees and the impact they had on the locals. War and hate has the ability to divide communities but Letters from the Lighthouse shows how much can be achieved when people work together.</p> <p>A beautifully written story about bravery, compassion, understanding, and having the strength to fight for what you believe in.</p> <p><i>Boys who enjoy Second World War stories will enjoy this book. A good addition to 'Friend and Foe' which the Year 4's have just finished reading.</i></p>
<p>Running on the Roof of the World by Jess Butterworth</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

<p>The Explorer by Katherine Rundell.</p>	<p>After crashing hundreds of miles from civilisation in the Amazon rainforest, Fred, Con, Lila and Max are utterly alone and in grave danger. They have no food, no water and no chance of being rescued. But they are alive and they have hope. As they negotiate the wild jungle they begin to find signs that something - someone - has been there before them. Could there possibly be a way out after all? <i>I read this book at the beginning of the term and thoroughly enjoyed it - 'Famous Five' meets 'Journey to the River Sea'.</i></p>
<p>The Eye of the North by Sinead O'Hart</p>	<p>In a nutshell: unputdownable adventure story set in a vivid frozen world</p> <p>Emmeline Widget is a character readers will love: small, determined, not to be under-estimated and surprisingly well able to defend herself against those who wish her ill, which is just as well as some particularly nasty villains have Emmeline in their sights. What was it about her parents' studies that have triggered this interest? The answer takes us deep into the last remaining frozen wastes of a steam-punky globally-warmed world, and a confrontation with something very strange indeed. Supporting characters include the wonderful Thing, an orphan boy whose affection for Emmeline mostly overrides his criminal tendencies. This is a thrilling adventure from the opening page to the final scenes, and Sinead O'Hart is an author to watch. Don't miss.</p> <p><i>If you enjoyed Cogheart you'll love this!</i></p>
<p>Middle School: Escape to Australia</p>	<p>In a nutshell: Rafe Khatchadorian heads down under</p>

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<p>Written by <u>James Patterson</u> Part of the <u>Middle School Series</u></p>	<p>In this special episode of the hugely popular Middle School series, Rafe Khatchadorian, surely everyone's favourite reformed troublemaker, has won a special art competition, first prize an all-expenses paid trip to Australia. Rafe isn't sure he wants to go - he's worried about snakes, sharks and all those other deadly indigenous creatures - but Australia isn't ready for Rafe either: by the end of the book he and his mum, who accompanies him, are facing down an angry mob waving pitchforks. Finding out just what leads up to this is very funny indeed and readers will be pleased to hear that Rafe still returns home something of a hero. Kids everywhere will identify with Rafe, and especially those who just can't help attracting trouble: he's a very special hero, and Patterson's narrative technique means the pages turn almost by themselves.</p>
<p>Hari and His Electric Feet Written by <u>Alexander Mccall Smith</u> Illustrated by <u>Sam Usher</u></p>	<p>In a nutshell: joyful story of a boy and his dancing feet</p> <p>Hari lives in a biggish city in India with his sister and aunt. He's always cheerful and enjoys helping support them all delivering tiffin boxes for the nearby take-away and running his own sweet-making business. He spends some of the proceeds on tickets to the cinema and particularly likes musicals. When he accidentally stumbles onto a real film set, his special talent is suddenly revealed: when Hari dances, <i>everyone</i> has to join in. It makes him a local celebrity then, with the help of his friend Mr Ram, Hari uses his gift to spread happiness further afield. The story is as tempting and delicious as Hari's coconut barfi, and its engaging narrator will have readers almost convinced it's a true story; the world would certainly be a better place if it was.</p> <p><i>Particularly suitable for struggling, reluctant or dyslexic readers aged 8+.</i></p>
<p>Hamish and the Worldstoppers</p>	<p><i>Hamish and the Worldstoppers</i> was one of my favourite books of 2015, and the follow up is even better. The world is in danger again, or should that be still, and the monsters Hamish and his friends defeated in his first outing are small-town stuff compared to the Neverpeople threat he faces. The mayhem starts in 10 Downing Street, in some very funny scenes, and takes Hamish into an alternative world where everything, from the Statue of Libert-he to the Her-malayan mountains, is reversed. Quirky, original, clever, fast-</p>

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	<p>paced and very funny indeed, this book will be another huge hit with young readers while Wallace's narrative voice - both teasing and worldly-wise - makes it great for reading aloud.</p>
<p>The Monster Hunter by Guy Bass</p>	<p>The Monster Hunter by Guy Bass</p> <p>The sixth freakishly funny adventure featuring Stitch Head, a mad professor's forgotten creation. He's back! Join Stitch Head, a mad professor's forgotten creation, as he steps out of the shadows into the adventure of an almost-lifetime...</p> <p>In the maze-like dungeons of Castle Grotteskew, the frightfully insane Professor Erasmus conducts his bizarre experiments on living things. His very first creation has long been forgotten - a small, almost-human creature, known only as Stitch Head. Poor Stitch Head has spent years vying for attention amongst a menagerie of freakish monsters.</p> <p>In the final instalment of this much loved series, an unexpected visitor crash-lands on top of Castle Grotteskew - Stitch Head knows it can only mean trouble. Eccentric explorer, Dotty Dauntless, has bet her fortune on delivering a monster to the Venture Club and is intent on leaving the castle with a monstrous creation in tow. The problem is, all the castle's monsters are as meek as kittens...</p>
<p>Shadow Warriors by Chris Bradford</p>	<p>Shadow Warriors by Chris Bradford</p> <p>Taka's got a problem: he can't pass the Grandmaster's test and earn his black belt. But then a much more serious situation arises, and it seems his whole clan is under threat. At last Taka has a chance to prove himself, but he and his friends Cho and Renzo will face terrible danger on the way. A fantastic adventure that will floor boys and girls alike from the first page and keep them reading long after lights out.</p>

<p>Simon Thorn and the Wolf's Den</p>	<p>Like Harry Potter, Aimée Carter's twisty, original thriller stars a gang of kids with special abilities up against a cast of powerful adults, some of whom are decidedly untrustworthy. Instead of being trainee wizards however, these young people are at shapeshifter school learning to turn themselves into animals. Simon can talk to animals, but had no idea he could be the heir to a shapeshifting dynasty until suddenly he's at the centre of a decades-old intrigue, with a new set of friends, and even a brother he never knew he had. As strife between the shapeshifters and the different factions of the animal kingdom grows, this is a great opener to a new series that will satisfy readers who like their adventures action- and animal-packed. Imaginative and vivid with themes of bravery, loyalty, and finding one's true self, this exciting, five-book adventure series is perfect for fans of Rick Riordan's Percy Jackson and Beast Quest.</p>
<p>Uncle Gobb And The Green Heads Written by <u>Michael Rosen</u> Illustrated by <u>Neal Layton</u></p>	<p>In a nutshell: Really? An Uncle Gobb story in a nutshell? You're having a laugh Malcolm, his best friend Crackersnacker and Malcolm's awful homework-obsessed, bean counting (unless it's literal bean counting - see page 1) Uncle Gobb of Gobb Education are back for another helping of riotous adventure that sends all three on a trip to the United States. Packed with humour and word play that delights in turning logic, literalism and much of the story line on its head this will have readers in hysterics. Neal Layton's smudgy energetic illustrations match the zany anarchy of Michael Rosen's story brilliantly.</p>
<p>Only you can Save Mankind by Terry Pratchett</p>	<p>This is an absolutely cracking whiz-bang of a story. Set in an unreality, that is actually scarily real, it plays with your mind and really, really makes you think! Johnny Maxwell loves video games, while shooting invading spaceships, he finds himself contacted by an alien race, suddenly the game is real, can Johnny save the day? This is as valid today, as when it was first written in the early 1990's, though Terry Pratchett made some updates, along with an authors note in 2013. He explains that <i>Only You Can Save Mankind</i> was written during the first Gulf War when TV computer games about war were in their infancy, the news was showing constant, sometimes even live updates about the war, and so the lines between pretend and real were become very</p>

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	<p>blurred indeed. Terry Pratchett excels in setting questions about mankind for you to ponder without you realising it, all the while enjoying a wild fantastical ride. No one else quite has his magical touch, his books are so witty, thoughtful and wise. <i>Only You Can Save Mankind</i> is the first in a quite spectacular trilogy and another must read from the truly wonderful Terry Pratchett. ~ <u>Liz Robinson</u></p>
<p>The Lion Roars by Alan Gibbons</p>	<p>The story of a young footballer from Africa who achieves his dream of winning a place at one of the top UK clubs, this short novel is both a satisfying story of hard work, dedication and talent, plus all-important family support, leading to success, but inspires too by the inclusion of pages of information about the real-life heroes of African football, from Roger Milla to Samuel Eto'o and Demba Ba. Written to be super-readable, it is action and fact-filled both, a skilful piece of storytelling that will catch the imagination of all young football fans and give them lots to talk about.</p> <p>Particularly suitable for struggling, reluctant and dyslexic readers aged 8+</p> <p>Barrington Stoke is the foremost publisher of super-readable short fiction by some of the very best children's authors and illustrators in the UK. Each title has a host of unique accessibility features to offer cracking reads to more children including reluctant and struggling readers and those with dyslexia or visual stress. Here at Lovereading4kids we are constantly selecting the best of their new and backlist titles to recommend to you.</p>