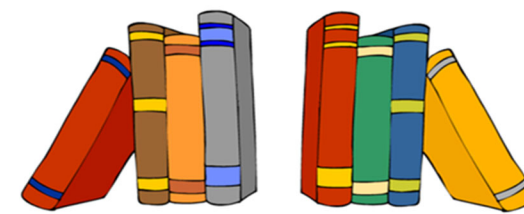


BVS Reading Newsletter

Summer 2023



Welcome to our reading recommendations newsletter!

Each term, we will share with you reviews and information about books our pupils are currently enjoying. We encourage our pupils and their families to look through these to see if any may be of interest to them. In addition, we have reading lists by [year group](#) and [genre](#) on our website.

This Pupil Recommends ...

Eguono in Year 8 recommends the following title:

The Box in the Woods **Maureen Johnson**

This book is the fourth in the *Truly Devious* series.

This series is about a teenager named Stevie solving multiple murders. After solving the now famous 'Truly Devious' case at her school, she is back home for a boring summer, however she gets a message from the owner of Sunny Pines, formerly known as Camp Wonder Falls.

Camp Wonder Falls was formerly known as the site of the notorious unsolved 'Box in the Woods' case. Four camp counsellors were killed in the woods outside the town of Barlow Corners, their bodies left in a gruesome display. The new camp owner offers Stevie a chance to solve this case but there is still something lurking in the dark corners of Barlow Corners and this time Stevie might not come out alive.

This book is wonderful as it leaves you wondering what's going to happen as you read on. If you love murder mysteries this book is for you.

Author Visits!

We have been fortunate to have visits from more amazing authors this term. Lesley Parr and Nicola Davies's visits are described in our summer newsletter. We have also thoroughly enjoyed visiting the regular Waterstones stalls that are set up in our school!

Summer Reading Recommendations

Suggestions from our pupils for good books to read this summer include:

- 'Alpha Force' (series) - Chris Ryan
- 'I Capture the Castle' - Dodie Smith
- 'Mission Survival' (series) - Bear Grylls
- 'A Gathering Light' - Jennifer Donnelly
- 'Jackdaw Summer' - David Almond
- 'Where the River Takes Us' - Lesley Parr
- 'The Song That Sings Us' - Nicola Davies
- 'The Hobbit' - JRR Tolkien
- 'Everything, Everything' - Nicola Yoon
- 'The Summer I Turned Pretty' - Jenny Han
- 'Stormbreaker' (first in the Alex Rider series) - Anthony Horowitz

Whatever your interests, there is a book (lots of books!) out there for you. Whether you like graphic novels, non-fiction, 'choose your own adventure' books, how-to books, magazines or something else, there really is something for everyone in the world of books.

If you aren't yet a keen reader, talk to friends with similar interests to you about the books that they enjoy and take it from there or look at the reading lists on our website. Be patient with yourself and try and read somewhere you are comfortable—outdoors in the sunshine would be a great choice (if we have sunshine this summer holiday!).

BVS Book Group

When?

Wednesday lunchtimes

Where?

Headteacher's Office

What?

We meet each week to discuss the book we're reading together, to recommend books to one another and to plan reading-related trips and activities.

You are welcome to bring your lunch with you.

All welcome!

All book group members are provided with free copies of the books we read!

Books We've Read This Year:

Where the Crawdads Sing **Delia Owens**

Jasmine writes: "I liked the premise of the book and found it interesting how Kya survived in the marsh. However I found some of the characters were unlikeable, with the exception of Jumpin' and Mabel. The twist at the end was clever but predictable.

Overall I liked the book and am looking forward to seeing the film. I would rate it 3/5 stars."

Most book club members agreed with Jasmine's views and this book had an overall rating of 57% amongst the group. Still topping the poll is **'Ariadne'** by **Jennifer Saint!**

The surprise success for many group members was **'A Christmas Carol'** by **Charles Dickens**. The pupils said they had found Dickens' writing much more accessible than they expected and the novel far richer than any film adaptation!

Staff Favourites:

Mr. Davies (Deputy Headteacher):
"Animal Farm"; George Orwell
This is my favourite book, but I also love 'Lord of the Rings' and the Harry Potter books!
'Under Milk Wood' is absolutely fantastic too—best read aloud on Audible by Richard Burton!

Mrs. Hutchins (Headteacher's PA):
'The Diary of Anne Frank' - this had a huge impact on me as a secondary age pupil. Everyone should read it!

Mrs. Owen (Deputy Headteacher):
"Wonder", R.J. Palacio, or 'The Girl of Ink and Stars', Kiran Millwood Hargrave, would make great summer holiday reading!

Mr. McHugh (Assistant Headteacher):
'Island of the Great Yellow Ox', Walter Macken

Mrs. Gwyther (Student Services):
'Little Women', Louisa May Alcott
(this was also Mrs. Pole's favourite book as a child).
Mrs. Gwyther also recommends 'The Great Gatsby' by F. Scott Fitzgerald.

Whatever you choose to read this summer, we all hope that you enjoy it!

Wise Words:

"Think before you speak; read before you think."

Fran Lebowitz

