



# Reading Week November 2023

## Drop Everything & Read

"Reading Week was great. Drop Everything and Read is a perfect way to finish the school day - we hope that all teachers remembered when it was so that all students got the full half an hour. My friends and I found it inspiring as it encourages us to read more both in and out of school." - Maisy Barber & Millika Partis Y7

## Treasure Hunt

Students had to decipher a code from literary based questions placed all over the school. Once all of the letters has been found, this created a word. Those who completed the search exchanged their slips for a small prize on the library.

## Short Story Competition

Thank you so much for all of your wonderful entries into the short story competition. Congratulations to the winning authors: Isaac Major, Alex Kendall, Violet Stanton-Cutts and Chloe Miller. As well as winning a £20 Amazon voucher, their pieces are featured in this newsletter. Please take some time to read through their thought provoking, emotive stories. Thank you to the Library Committee for their help with us choosing the winning pieces.



## Book Swap

As usual, the Book Swap was a great success. Thank you to everyone who got involved - be that by bringing a book in, buying a book voucher or just browsing. We hope you all enjoy your new books!





# A Warm Welcome to the Library Committee



## Who Are We?

The students had to submit applications to the library, detailing why they wanted to join the Committee, what they thought they could bring, and ideas for the newsletter.

Those who were successful took part in our first meeting two weeks ago, where we discussed the ups and downs on the recent reading week, spoke about how to improve the next one and decided what we should highlight in this newsletter.

The half-termly library newsletter is going to be completely student led. The aim is to get you reading books that you might not have read before, or even know exist, as well as showcase the great events that often take place in the library.

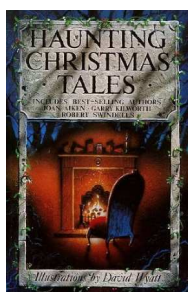
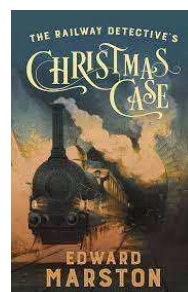
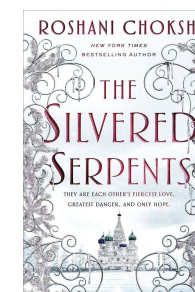
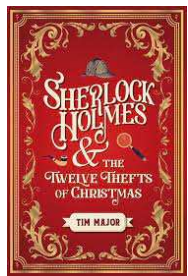
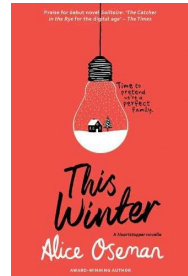
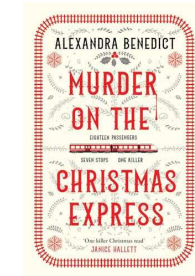
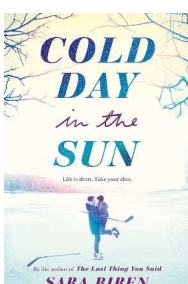
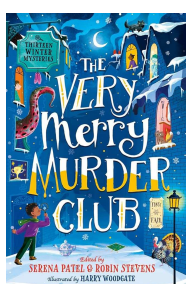
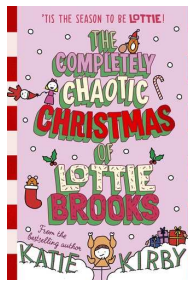
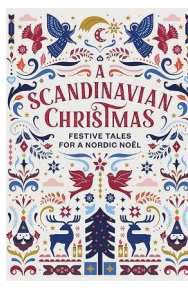
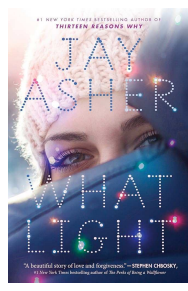
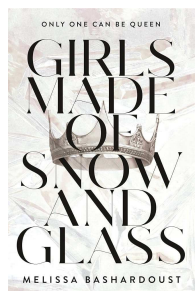
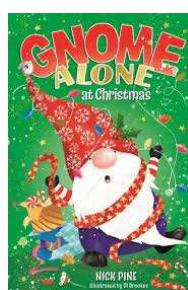
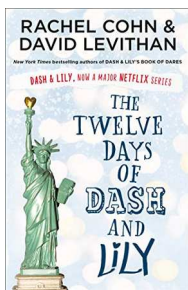
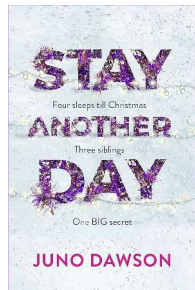
'Mrs Plater and I would like to say a massive thank you to Ava Kleinhout, Thomas Cassar, Faith Cresswell, Isabelle Lutkin, Lily Hocking, Ivy Soumati, Elizabeth Caulfield, Evie Dunn, Scarlett Barnes, Bilal Tariq, Noah Watkins, Maisey Barber, Millika Partis, Matilda Keane, Eliza Mann-Berue, India Peebles Brown & Ava Robinson. Your contributions at our first meeting were incredible and the passion that you have for improving the library is admirable. I hope you are all really proud of this newsletter - you have all put a lot of work in and you should be very proud of yourselves. I am looking forward to our next meeting in January.' - Miss Marsh



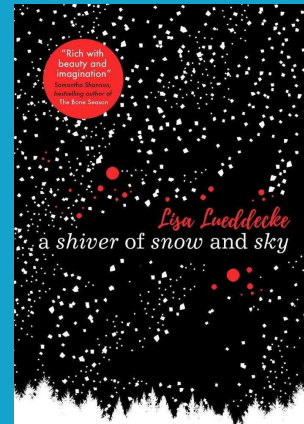


Why not try the....

# New Festive Reads



## Miss Marsh's recommendation: A Shiver of Snow and Sky Lisa Lueddecke



'On the frozen island of Skane, the sky speaks. Beautiful lights appear on clear nights, and their colours have meaning: Green means all is well, and the Goddess is happy. Blue means a snow storm is on the way. And then there's red. Red is rare. A warning. Seventeen years ago the sky turned red just as Osa was born, unleashing a plague that claimed the lives of hundreds of villagers, including her own mother. This time, when the night sky once again bleeds crimson, she must discover what it means before so many lives are lost again.'

Genre: Fantasy

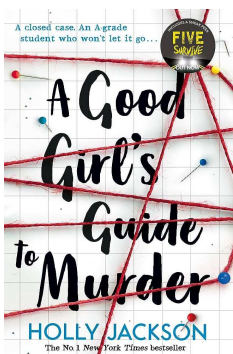
Age Rating: 12+

Rating:



# KS3 Reading Recommendations

## A Good Girl's Guide to Murder – Holly Jackson



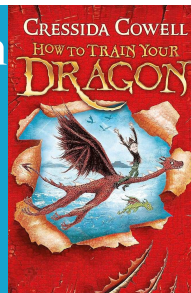
This is a Young Adults Mystery book about a 17 year old girl called Pip Fitz-Amobi, who finds herself drawn to a murder case that was believed to have been solved five years ago. However, Pip believes that they have got the wrong man and digs further into her towns history, uncovering secrets along the way. I am recommending this story because I really enjoyed it! I think that you will rarely come across such a well written murder mystery. It has captivating characters with unique personalities that really draw you in at the same time as being realistic. Pip is a special character in the book as she is very unpredictable in what she does, but she is also very logical and strong minded. She doesn't like to take no for an answer and refuses to stop until she has finished what she is doing, even if this means risking her life. The plot of the story was very intriguing and had many unexpected twists which stopped you from putting the book down and kept you guessing. It is one of those books that could make you laugh and cry in the same chapter whilst keeping you captivated. This book is a perfect example of a gripping murder mystery and I highly recommend it to anyone who likes this kind of book or is thinking about reading it. Even if you are not a big fan of the genre, or you haven't read a book like this before, I think that this will get you obsessed! It is also the first in a series so you don't have to worry about running out. It is perfect for ages 12 and over. I hope this has helped convince you to read this book and if you do I hope you enjoy it as much as I did!

Ava Robinson - Y8



## How to Train Your Dragon – Cressida Crowell

To all the students of Cottingham High School, it is my delight to share an adventurous tale. Not only is this book exciting, but it's also very interesting and unpredictable.

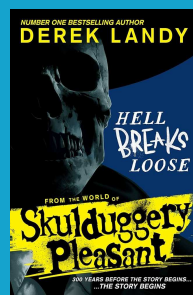


It includes various plots and cliffhangers. This book caters to most types of readers, whether you enjoy adventure, mystery, fighting, fiction or non-fiction it's the book for you. Now, you might wonder about this extraordinary tale. This captivating and mind engrossing book is 'How to Train Your Dragon'. If you've experienced it, you understand it's enticing allure. The words ensnare you, transporting you into a world of thrilling adventures with dragons and perilous dimensions. These words might rekindle your longing for a book that truly captivates. This story follows a boy who forges an incredible friendship with a dragon, nurturing and training it. When I delved into this enthralling tale, my mind oscillated between sorrow and happiness. I wholeheartedly recommend embarking on this remarkable journey.

-Bilal Tariq - Y7

## Hell Breaks Loose – Derek Landy

'Hell Breaks Loose' is a prequel of the original Skulduggery Pleasant series set 300 years prior in Italy, 1703. It includes favourite characters such as Mevolent and Nefarian Serpentine. A being of



devastating power is waiting in a hellish dimension. Instead of trying to assassinate Mevolent, the Dead Men are trying to save him as he is the only one powerful enough to seal the rift to the hellish dimension and save the world. I recommend this to ages of 10 and above, This is the perfect read for anyone who likes adventure, mystery and a roller coaster ride of a story. The characters are amazing and have their own thrilling features such as scars, skeletal body parts and cool abilities.

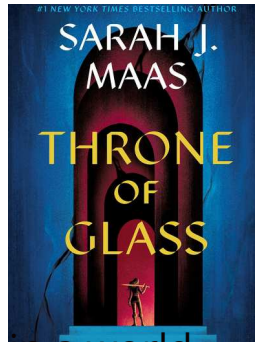
Noah Watkins - Y7



# KS4 Reading Recommendations

## Throne of Glass – Sarah J. Maas

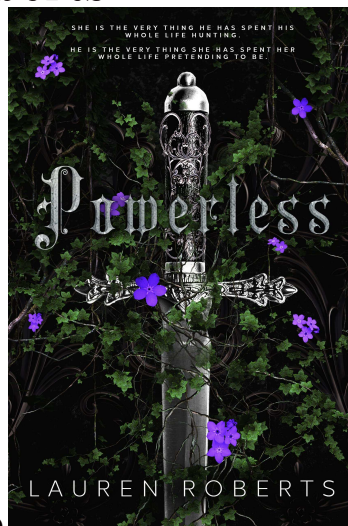
Throne of Glass follows the story of Celaena Sardothien a fierce and cunning protagonist and skilled assassin with a complex past. On a mission of survival, she discovers lots of ancient secrets and dangers within the palace. The series unfolds in a world with magic, and a tapestry of characters who evolve in surprising ways. Throne of Glass is a captivating blend of fantasy elements, making it a realm that readers can immerse themselves in and explore with each turn of the page. If you enjoy reading fantasy, this would be perfect for you!



Lily Hocking - Y10

## Powerless – Lauren Roberts

Powerless is the gripping, intoxicating and beautiful Romantasy debut novel by Lauren Roberts that has taken the BookTok world by storm. It follows a fantasy world in which society is separated and dictated by different levels of power called Elites. The protagonist, Paedyn Gray, is an orphan, thief and imposter trying to survive in the slums when one day she makes a fatal mistake, upturning her already disastrous life. In the novel, we see Paedyn face challenges, love and betrayal all in the name of survival. Perfect for fans of books like 'The Hunger Games' and 'Red Queen', it will have you crying, laughing and smiling all at once. I would definitely recommend giving this five-star read a chance.



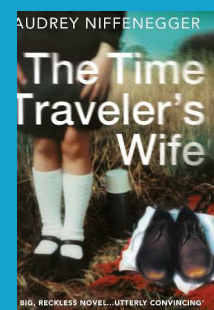
- Izzie Lutkin

## The Time Traveller's Wife – Audrey Niffenegger

'The Time Travellers Wife' by Audrey Niffenegger is a literary Science Fiction novel that centres on the extraordinary romance between the main characters, Henry and Clare. Henry is a man who suffers from Chrono Displacement, a unique condition where his genetic clock resets periodically, and he finds himself pulled involuntarily into his past or future.

Meanwhile, Clare must live her life beside him in a constant state of angst, as she is always left behind. This one of a kind novel does not fall short of creating a truly beautiful romance, which encapsulates the heartache included with it, whilst also providing a fascinating tale of a man often lost in time.

Faith Cresswell - Y11



Faith Cresswell's Christmas Classic...

# Little Women - Louisa May Alcott

Over 150 years after its initial publication in 1868, 'Little Women' by Louisa May Alcott is one of the most successful, memorable, and prestigious novels of all time - and rightfully so. It autobiographically follows the story of the four March sisters - Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy who each present differing personalities and fortunes. We follow them throughout their daily lives, laugh with them, and share their hardships and grievances as though they were our own: It is impossible to not become emotionally invested in this story, ripe with charm and passion. At the time, 'Little Women' created a wholesome, yet classic picture of family life with which younger readers could easily identify - and might still even now. With key themes of domesticity, loving relationships and hard work, this timeless classic will never lose its relatability to a wider audience - especially now during the festive season.



## Matilda Keane's Random Literary Facts

- The Latin on the Hogwarts crest translates as: 'Never tickle a sleeping dragon.'
- The 'C.S' in C.S Lewis stands for Clive Staples, and he hated it so much he told everyone to call him Jack.
- Agatha Christie has sold over two billion books making her the best selling fiction author of all time!
- The best selling children's author of all time is Dr. Seuss. He has sold more than 600 million copies of his books.
- The longest book in the world is 'Remembrance of Things Past' according to Guinness World Book of Records. It has 1,609,000 characters, including spaces. It was written by Marcel Proust who was born in France in 1912.



## The Secret Box

George couldn't wait to unpack his toys in his new bedroom. His family had just moved house that morning. George's house was very old and needed a lot of renovations. Opening the door to the wardrobe, George noticed a small wooden box covered in dust. He was about to throw it out into the junk pile when the lid fell off. In the box there was a photograph of a young man dressed in a soldier's uniform. George wondered who the man was. At that moment George's sister, Eliza came running into his room. George showed Eliza the photograph of the young man. Eliza turned the photograph over and noticed there was a name on the back. "Harry Wilson 26th June 1939" said Eliza. Upon looking closer in the box, George spotted a little envelope containing poppy seeds. George and Eliza went to tell their parents what they had found. "Lets go into the garden and plant the seeds. Mr Wilson must have kept them for a reason". A few weeks later, the seeds had grown into red poppies just like the ones we see on remembrance day....

- Isaac Major Y7







# Lest we forget



©By Alex Kendall.

"The heavy rain had hammered down on the soldiers that inadequate day, the uneven ground developing dark pools of a mix between water, mud and the blood from the scars that are yet to come. It was my first week out into the battle, the first couple of the everlasting days were spent stuck in the transports. I finally got signed up after I achieved the legal age so I could help my friends (who were older) that already got out into the battle before me. The conditions were bad; the slippery mud, our baggy uniforms blathered in the egregious muddy conditions. The helmets and equipment were burdensome, pulling our bodies down before we even got into the fight. We set up camp, and I met my friends after a what felt like an eternity. We all talked about how we were until the alarm went off. The Germans were coming. Some people said they were the bringers of hell itself.

"The battle was very lengthy, it's not what I expected. I honestly thought it would be like what me and my friends did in the park when we were younger. The Nazis had rolled in on their panzer tanks, with a great number of troops sat on the sides. Our tanks had soon rolled in behind us, reassuring that we would win this wretched war, but little we did know, there was a cost. Aerial support flew over from both sides, immediately getting into a fight. Bombs rustled in the barrels of the metal beasts of the sky, the bullets flying into your ears. Figuratively and literally. My friend Winston, about my height, emerald eyes and perfectly blonde hair was besides my side for most of the battle until he ran into the fog left by the machinery. The Germans had kept coming until the point when they knew they'd lose so they ran away. The fog was thick, almost ready to grab your ankle and pull you under. I looked for Winston, getting worried. What could have happened? Did he get taken away? 'What could have happened to him?' I kept saying to myself.

"But when I finally found him, the thing I feared most had happened. Winston... he was laid on the floor iced with mud over his uniform and a gaping hole in his upper torso, he was barely breathing. I cried aloud for a medic; he was barely breathing by the time I got closer. I picked him up, and slung him over my shoulder, and headed back. The Germans had returned, but in greater numbers. I proceeded anyway and took him back to camp. He sadly couldn't make it... He had to be buried. We dug through the uneven terrain, we did it to the correct size and then we buried him. I promised I would avenge him. Later, the war had thankfully ended. We were putting away the original camp I first came to with Winston. Many battles had passed since then. I visited his grave for the final time. It had been about 6 months since Winston's death. But something changed when I went... something that made me smile. A small well-conditioned, green stalked, silk-soft, velvet poppy had risen directly above the grave. It's almost like Winston was still here. I picked the poppy off his grave and put it in my uniform shirt's left pocket, closest to my heart. I wore it back home."

The audience applauded, and the grand war hero sat on his chair. The retirement home's clock struck eleven. The war hero adjusted the eighty-four-year-old withered poppy, a much darker colour than when he first laid his young eyes on it. The poppy was sat in his jumper's left pocket. The hero thought about Winston, his emerald eyes, his perfectly blonde hair. The war hero felt the poppy, the poppy he had had for eighty-four years. The silence had ended, the clock struck five past. The hero walked outside into the back garden. And he looked up. he held the poppy and looked at it. "Lest we forget," he spoke. Soon the wind came, grabbed the poppy out of his hand and pulled it high above the hero. **The end.**



# Remembering Charlie

By Violet Stanton-Cutts 7 Fox

As Ethel walked through the memorials of the fallen soldiers of World War I, the sunny weather and the bird song didn't reflect the sorrow she was feeling. The year was 1974 and she was 73 years old. As she took in the peaceful surroundings, her mind went back to when she was 13...

It was 1914 and the news of the war had begun to spread. Ethel had heard about horses being needed and requisitioned all over the country. Nothing could describe the fear of losing her favourite birthday present, her beloved horse. He was called Charlie and had a beautiful, silky dark mane and his dappled grey coat shone in the sun. She loved his wild personality and his love for galloping through the green, fresh fields. Ethel took in every moment she had with him until that fateful day when she saw the horsebox slowly make its way down the drive as if at the front of a funeral procession.

As the man from the army got out of the driver's seat, Ethel's dad ran over to her as she began to scream and cry. Ethel hugged her horse for the last time because she knew he would leave her forever. Her dad held her tight as the man lead Charlie to the horsebox. Seeming to realise he was leaving for good; Charlie pulled his head around and fought against the tight grip of the man on his bridle. The fear in Charlie's eyes was clear as he got one last glance of his beloved owner.

73-year-old Ethel had the memory of that day carved into her mind. Many unanswered questions spiralled through her head. Where was he taken in France? How was he used? Did he suffer? She placed her poppy down and gave thanks to all the animals that got caught up in the horrors of human war. Her final words to her favourite horse were uttered quietly in the soft summer breeze, "Goodbye Charlie".

(Chloe Miller - 7BR)

Gunshots echoed in my ears, bullets zoomed past my head. There were screams, screams from the enemy, screams from the allies. I couldn't help but feel bad for them, even if they were the "bad guys". They had only been told to fight for what they were told was right, just as I had been. I ducked down as a scarily close bullet flew past where I had just been.

"Close one," my best friend said, half laughing, half terrified. I knew he had never wanted to be in the army, he wanted to be an artist. I could see the fear in his face that he constantly tried to hide, he didn't want to be here.

"I know," I replied, trying to laugh it off like him. I can't wait for it to be over, for when I can see my family, for when peace is achieved.

I got up and reloaded my gun, ready to fire. Just then, I saw a bullet, heading not to me, but next to me. I screamed for him to duck, but I wasn't fast enough. It hit. I could see the terror in his eyes, he was desperately trying to breathe, but not for long. I watched as my best friend died in front of me. I could feel the tears in my eyes, but I had to stay strong.

I got up, fueled with rage. I rapidly fired, not desperate to avenge my friend. I took down a few people, although I couldn't help but feel bad. My wrists ached and my palms were sweaty, but I didn't stop. Eventually, the bullets ran out. I looked around, trying to find some more.

As I turned to get them from a bucket on the wall, I felt something hit the back of my head. I froze. I couldn't control my body and I fell to the floor. I tried hard to push on, to live, but I couldn't. Everything went black.

Remember us. We died for your freedom, for your tomorrow. Do not let us be forgotten.