

KS3 Book Recommendations

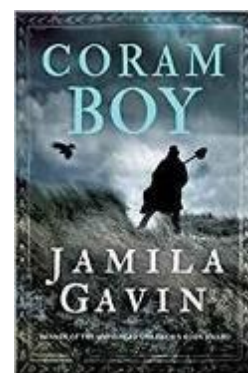
At Lady Hawkins' School we want to foster a love of reading! We want to help our students find new books to read, so below you will find a range of fantastic books for Key Stage 3 students.

Most of the books are available in our school library, but you can also get them from local bookshops and online booksellers.

Here's a list of reads that appeal to a wide range of KS3 students.

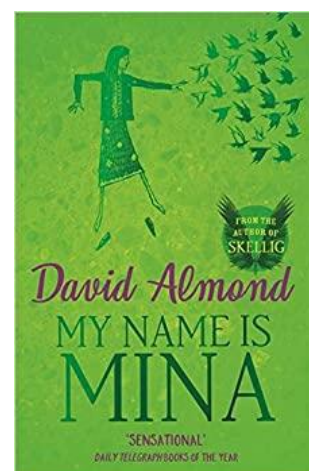
Coram Boy by Jamila Gavin.

Toby, an African, and Aaron, the illegitimate heir to a great estate, are linked by the Coram Man, a shady figure who supposedly delivers abandoned children to a safe new life at the Coram Hospital. The reality is much, much worse. Join Toby and Aaron on an epic journey through 1750s Britain, fraught with danger and excitement.



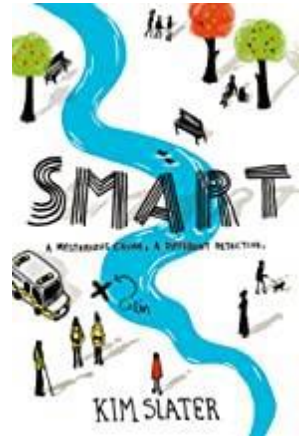
My Name is Mina by David Almond.

There's an empty notebook lying on the table in the moonlight. It's been there for an age. I keep on saying that I'll write a journal. So I'll start right here, right now. I open the book and write the very first words: My name is Mina and I love the night. Then what shall I write? I can't just write that this happened then this happened then this happened to boring infinitum. I'll let my journal grow just like the mind does, just like a tree or a beast does, just like life does. Why should a book tell a tale in a dull straight line? And so Mina writes and writes in her notebook, and here is her journal, Mina's life in Mina's own words: her stories and dreams, experiences and thoughts, her scribblings and nonsense, poems and songs. Her vivid account of her vivid life.



Smart by Kim Slater.

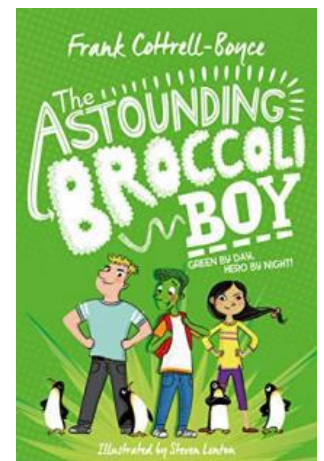
A homeless man has been murdered and the police don't care; but Kieran does and he's going to solve the case. Being a detective is difficult when you're amazing at drawing but terrible at fitting in. And when there are dangerous secrets everywhere, not just outside, but under your own roof.



The Astounding Broccoli Boy by Frank Cottrell-Boyce.

Rory Rooney likes to be prepared for all eventualities. His favourite book is *Don't Be Scared, Be Prepared*, and he has memorised every page of it. He could even survive a hippo attack. He knows that just because something is unlikely doesn't mean it won't ever happen . . .

But Rory *isn't* prepared when he suddenly and inexplicably turns green. Stuck in an isolation ward in a hospital far from home with two other remarkably green children, Rory's as confused by his new condition as the medics seem to be.



My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece by Annabel Pitcher.

Told through the eyes of ten-year-old Jamie, this novel sensitively tackles issues around family breakdown after grief. It also explores terrorism, racism and bullying issues from a child's point of view. **(Suitable for Older Readers)**

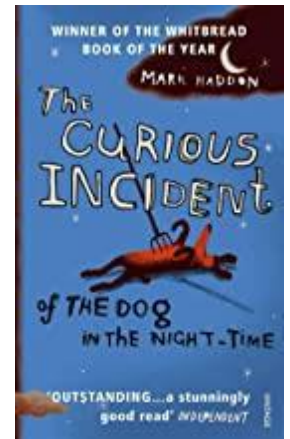


The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time by Mark Haddon.

A complex investigation begins with the discovery of a neighbour's dead dog and leads Christopher, who is autistic, to many unexpected discoveries, including about his own family.

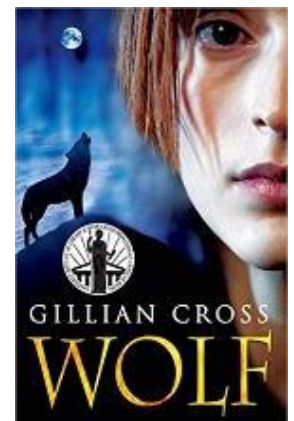
Hilarious and ingenious in equal measure.

(Suitable for Older Readers)



Wolf by Gillian Cross.

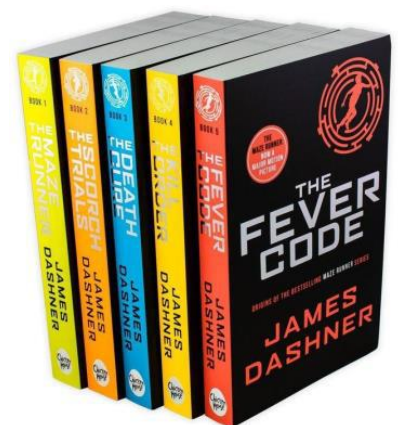
Casey reunites with her beautiful but simple mother after years apart and tries to settle into her new life but there are many questions about her past. Does she really want to know the answers?



The Maze Runner (series) by James Dashner.

In this gripping series, we encounter several unique characters who are trapped in a Maze with no prior memories or recollection of how they arrived. *The Glade* is a huge area which is caved in by massive walls 4 miles high and made concrete. Inside the Maze is a massive puzzle, covered in ivy and inside are atrocious metal creatures called Grievors that are roaming the hallways hunting for people. Thomas is the character we follow in the story, he enters the Glade, he is shocked and clueless as to why he is there. The only memory he can recall is his name...

(Suitable for Older Readers)

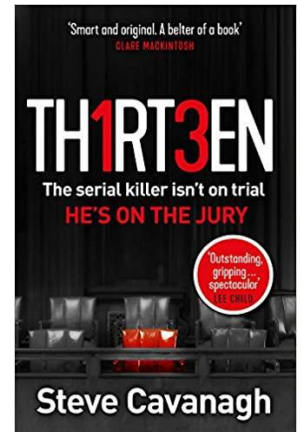


Thirteen by Steve Cavanagh.

Joshua Kane has been preparing for this moment his whole life. He's done it before. But this is the big one. This is the murder trial of the century. And Kane has killed to get the best seat in the house.

But there's someone on his tail, ex-conman turned trial attorney Eddie Flynn and he alone suspects that the killer isn't the man on trial.

For Kane, time is running out - all he needs is to get to the conviction without being discovered and for Eddie, it's a race against time to get to the killer before the wrong man takes the fall.
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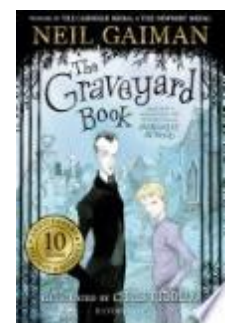
Pig Heart Boy by Malorie Blackman.

Cameron is seriously ill; a controversial transplant could save his life but that is only the beginning of his struggle.
Powerful and thought provoking.



The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman.

When Bod's parents are killed, he goes to live in the local graveyard where he is raised and protected by the ghosts who haunt the cemetery - but the murderer is still out there and they are searching for Bod. Step into the gothic - if you dare!

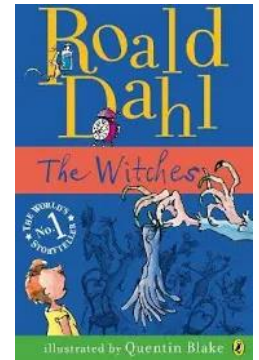


The Witches by Roald Dahl.

Real witches dress in ordinary clothes and look like ordinary women. But they are not ordinary. They are always plotting and scheming with murderous, bloodthirsty thoughts - and they hate children.

The Grand High Witch hates children most of all and plans to make every single one of YOU disappear.

Only one boy and his grandmother can stop her, but if their plan fails the Grand High Witch will frizzle them like fritters, and then what...?



Escape Room by Christopher Edge.

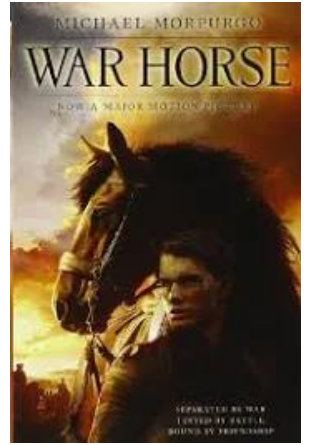
When twelve-year-old Ami arrives at The Escape, she thinks it's just a game - the ultimate escape room with puzzles and challenges to beat before time runs out. Meeting her teammates, Adjoa, Ibrahim, Oscar and Min, Ami learns from the Host that they have been chosen to save the world and they must work together to find the answer. But as he locks them inside the first room, they quickly realise this is no ordinary game.

From a cavernous library of dust to an ancient Mayan tomb, a deserted shopping mall stalked by extinct animals to the command module of a spaceship heading to Mars, the perils of The Escape seem endless. Can Ami and her friends find the answer before it's too late?



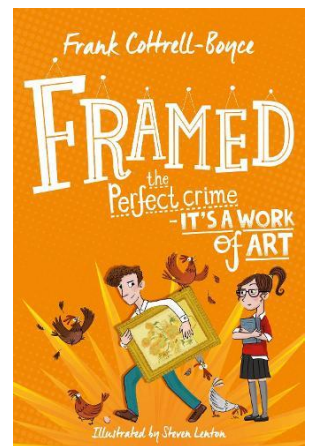
War Horse by Michael Morpurgo.

In the deadly chaos of the First World War, one horse witnesses the reality of battle from both sides of the trenches. Bombarded by artillery, with bullets knocking riders from his back, Joey tells a powerful story of the truest friendships surviving in terrible times. One horse has seen the best and the worst of humanity. The power of war and the beauty of peace. This is his story.



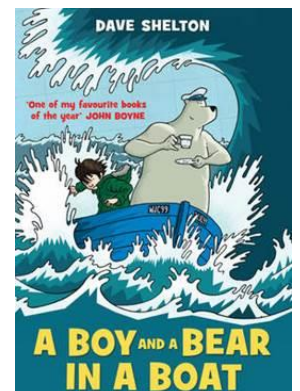
Framed by Frank Cottrell-Boyce.

Dylan is the only boy living in the tiny Welsh town of Manod. His parents run the Snowdonia Oasis Auto Marvel garage - and when he's not trying to persuade his sisters to play football, Dylan is in charge of the petrol log. And that means he gets to keep track of everyone coming in and out of Manod - what car they drive, what they're called, even their favourite flavour of crisps. But when a mysterious convoy of lorries trundles up the misty mountainside towards an old, disused mine, even Dylan is confounded. Who are these people - and what have they got to hide?



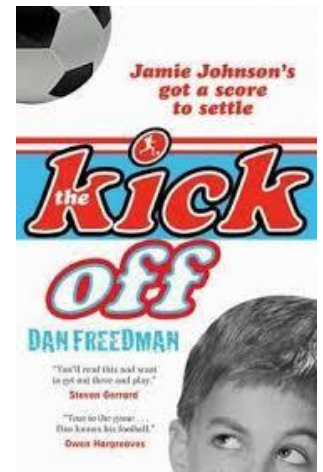
A Boy and a Bear in a Boat by Dave Shelton.

Imagine travelling on a boat with a polar bear as your captain... and then imagine your journey across the sea goes on and on, because the bear has got you both lost. That's exactly what happens to the boy in Dave Shelton's quirky and imaginative novel *A Boy and a Bear in a Boat*. This book tells the story of what happens when a boy and a rather remarkable bear find themselves stranded in the middle of the sea, the adventures they have, and how they survive.



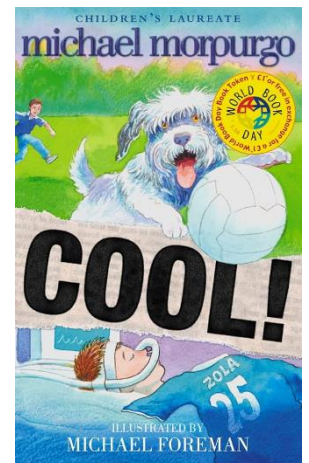
The Kick Off by Dan Freedman

The author of this series has worked in football with top players and teams. He's used these experiences, as well as a passion for children's literature, to write action-packed yet realistic stories about the sport.



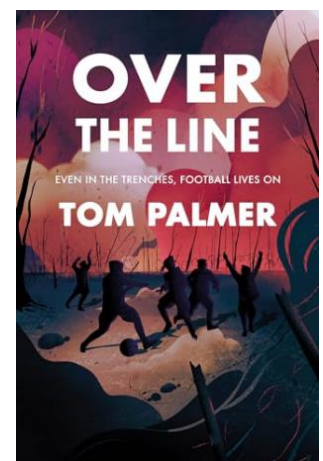
Cool by Michael Morpurgo

This classic Michael Morpurgo story is great for footie fans, especially (though not exclusively) Chelsea and Zola fans. It is amazing writing, but not too demanding for a reluctant reader. It is also thought-provoking, and heart-wrenching at times.



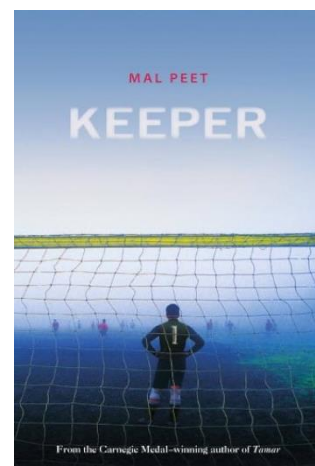
Over the Line by Tom Palmer

Over the Line is based on the real life story of Huddersfield Town player Jack, who joins the Football Battalion at the start of WW1 and is soon sent to the trenches of France. To keep up the soldiers' morale, a football tournament is organised called the Flanders Cup and Jack is selected to play as a striker. A gripping story which draws on both the horrors of WW1 and the power of football.



Keeper by Mal Peet

Keeper is about a goalie, but it's also about deforestation and South America. If your DC enjoy this there are two more books in the series, Penalty and Exposure - which is a retelling of Othello through football. Who bets that Iago's a bit mean on the pitch?



Rebound by Kwame Alexander

Shortlisted for the CILIP Carnegie Medal 2019. A dynamic slam-dunk of a book in which a boy lost in grief begins to find his feet on the basketball court. Slickly blending stirring verse-form storytelling with ingenious jump-off-the-page comic strip illustrations, this is a poignant, powerful page-turner.

