



# BRAESIDE READING NEWSLETTER



Issue 3: January 2023

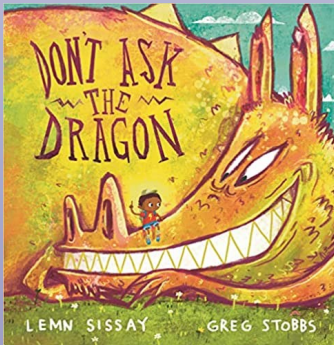
Happy new year! Welcome to Braeside's third edition of our Reading Newsletter; the one-stop-shop for all the latest book recommendations.

This month we have some recommendations for Isobel in Year 10. Her well crafted book synopses and recommendations are definitely worth a read. Isobel is also hoping to start Braeside's Senior Book Club - watch this space for more information.

In these winter months it is important to remember that engaging with books allows us to be transported to other places and worlds. We can become immersed in the lives of fictional characters or learn more about the world around us.

## EYFS - Picture books

### Kindergarten - Reception



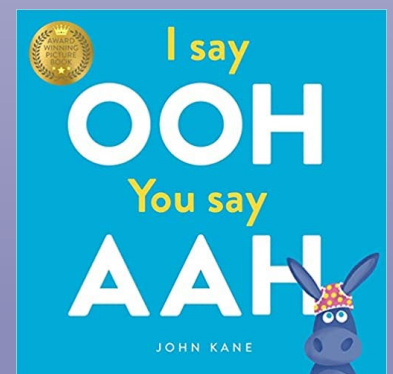
#### **Don't Ask the Dragon - by Lemn Sissay**

This is the story of a little boy called Alem who goes on an adventure. It's his birthday, but who knows where he can go to celebrate it? Maybe the bear, the fox, the treefrog or the bulldog know? But don't ask the dragon . . . or he will EAT you!

#### **I say Ooh You say Aah—by John Kane**

'There's something very important that I need you to remember. When I say Ooh, you say Aah. Let's try it.'

Ooh the donkey has lost his pants. Readers must help him find them! In this picture book, young readers help to sell the story by responding to simple verbal or visual cues. This hilarious book is perfect for reading aloud and is fun for the whole family.

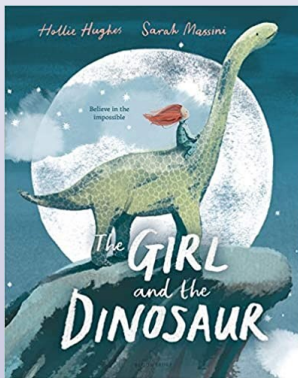


#### **Be Wild Little One - by Olivia Hope**

This gorgeous, uplifting picture book celebrates the wildness in all of us, and the beauty of the world all around us. Prepare for a heart-lifting journey through the beauties of nature: from pine forests to awe-inspiring mountains, and from sparkling seas to starry skies, each page is full of wonders. Fly across oceans, run with wolves through the mountain snow, dance with fireflies, and prepare to BE WILD!

# Key Stage 1 Recommended Reads

## Years 1 and 2



### **The Girl and the Dinosaur - by Hollie Hughes**

In a town by the seaside, Marianne is often seen foraging on the beach. But she isn't playing with children her own age. Instead Marianne is alone, and digging for dinosaur bones to build a special sort of companion. Then, one night, she goes to sleep wishing with all her heart that her dinosaur might come to life . . .

A very rare and special book where the words and pictures take you on a magical journey far beyond the page.

### **Smelly Bill Love Stinks—by Daniel Postgate**

Bill the dog loved smelly things, like muddy ponds and rubbish bins, but will the arrival of Great Aunt Bleach put an end to his smelly ways or will Bill live to stink another day?



Mrs Willemse's recommendation. Her children love it!

## Lower Key Stage 2 Recommended Reads

## Years 3 and 4



### **Emil and the Detectives - by Erich Kastner**

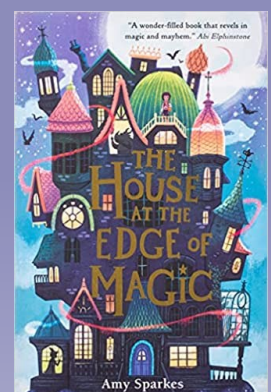
If Mrs Tischbein had known the amazing adventures her son Emil would have in Berlin, she'd never have let him go.

Unfortunately, when his seven pounds goes missing on the train, Emil is determined to get it back - and when he teams up with the detectives he meets in Berlin, it's just the start of a marvellous money-retrieving adventure . . .

A classic and influential story, Emil and the Detectives remains an enthralling read.

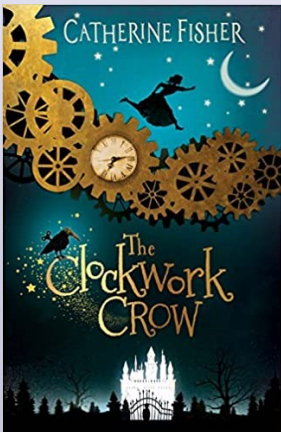
### **The House at the Edge of Magic - by Amy Sparkes**

Nine is an orphan pickpocket determined to escape her life in the Nest of a Thousand Treasures. When she steals a house-shaped ornament from a mysterious woman's purse, she knocks on its tiny door and watches it grow into a huge, higgledy-piggeldy house. Inside she finds a host of magical and brilliantly funny characters, including Flabberghast – a young wizard who's particularly competitive at hopscotch – and a hideous troll housekeeper who's emotionally attached to his feather duster. They have been placed under an extraordinary spell, which they are desperate for Nine to break – and if she can, maybe they can offer her a new life in return...



# Upper Key Stage 2 Recommended Reads

Years 5 and 6



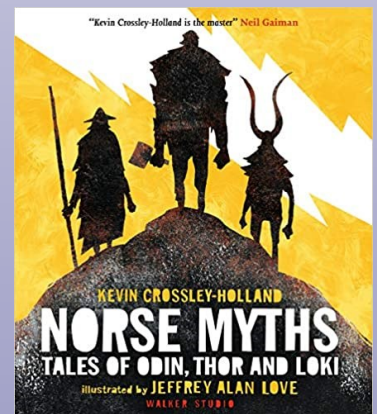
## The Clockwork Crow - by Catherine Fisher

A magical story of snow and stars by Catherine Fisher. The Clockwork Crow is a mysterious gothic Christmas tale set in a frost-bound Victorian country mansion. When orphaned Seren Rees is given a mysterious package by a strange and frightened man on her way to her new home, she reluctantly takes it with her. But what is in the parcel? Who are the Family who must not be spoken of, and can the Crow help Seren find Tom, before the owner of the parcel finds her? The Clockwork Crow is a gripping Christmas tale of families and belonging set in snowy Wales from a master storyteller.

## Norse Myths: Tales of Odin, Thor and Loki - by Kevin Crossley-Holland

An extraordinary and enthralling illustrated anthology of Norse Myths from a Carnegie-Medal winning author.

The gods of the Vikings come to life as never before in this extraordinary illustrated anthology by Carnegie Medal-winning author Kevin Crossley-Holland and astonishing artist Jeffrey Alan Love. These dramatic, enthralling and atmospheric tales are based on the Scandinavian myth cycle – one of the greatest and most culturally significant stories in the world – and tell of Odin with his one eye, Thor with his mighty hammer and Loki, the red-haired, shape-shifting trickster. In this stunning illustrated anthology of myths, the strange world of ancient magic, giants, dwarfs and monsters is unforgettably imagined.





# TOP THREE

## CHILDREN'S BOOKS ABOUT CLOCKS





CHOSEN BY A. M. HOWELL  
AUTHOR OF THE HOUSE OF ONE HUNDRED CLOCKS

FOR MORE TOP THREE FEATURES, VISIT [THEREADERTEACHER.COM](http://THEREADERTEACHER.COM)



# Key Stage 3 Recommended Reads

Years 7, 8 and 9

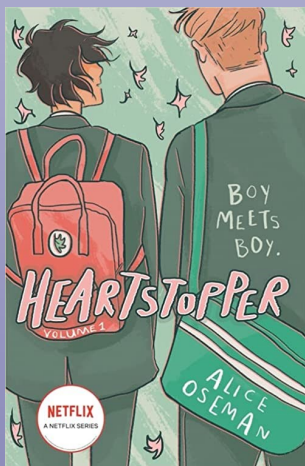
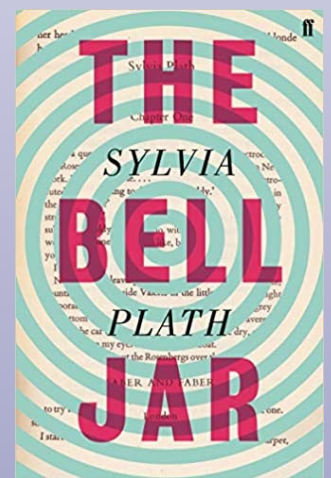


## Never Let Me Go - by Kazuo Ishiguro

Kazuo Ishiguro imagines the lives of a group of students growing up in a darkly skewed version of contemporary England. Narrated by Kathy, now thirty-one, *Never Let Me Go* dramatises her attempts to come to terms with her childhood at the seemingly idyllic Hailsham School and with the fate that has always awaited her and her closest friends in the wider world. A story of love, friendship and memory, *Never Let Me Go* is charged throughout with a sense of the fragility of life.

## The Bell Jar - by Sylvia Plath

I was supposed to be having the time of my life . . . Working as an intern for a New York fashion magazine in the summer of 1953, Esther Greenwood is on the brink of her future. Yet she is also on the edge of a darkness that makes her world increasingly unreal. Esther's vision of the world shimmers and shifts: day-to-day living in the sultry city, her crazed men-friends, the hot dinner dances... and razor sharp portrait of 1950s society, and has sold millions of copies worldwide.



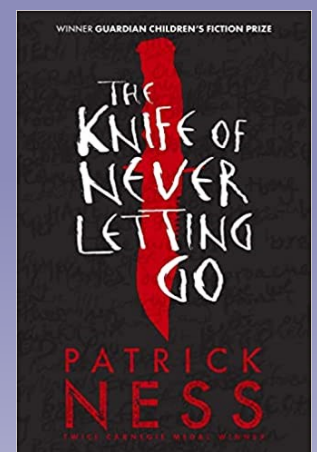
## Heartstopper - by Alice Oseman

Charlie and Nick are at the same school, but they've never met ... until one day when they're made to sit together. They quickly become friends, and soon Charlie is falling hard for Nick, even though he doesn't think he has a chance. But love works in surprising ways, and Nick is more interested in Charlie than either of them realised.

By Alice Oseman, winner of the YA Book Prize, *Heartstopper* is about love, friendship, loyalty and mental illness. It encompasses all the small stories of Nick and Charlie's lives that together make up something larger, which speaks to all of us.

## The Knife of Never Letting Go - by Patrick Ness

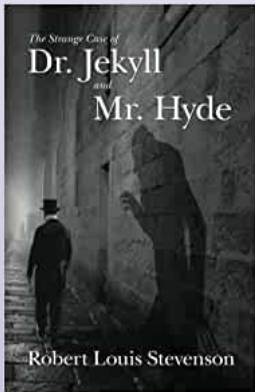
Prentisstown isn't like other towns. Everyone can hear everyone else's thoughts in a constant, overwhelming Noise. There is no privacy. There are no secrets. Then Todd Hewitt unexpectedly stumbles on a spot of complete silence. Which is impossible. And now he's going to have to run... This new edition marks the 10th anniversary of the award-winning modern classic, now a major motion picture starring Tom Holland and Daisy Ridley.



# Key Stage 4 Recommended Reads

Years 10 and 11

*Recommended by Isobel -Year 10*

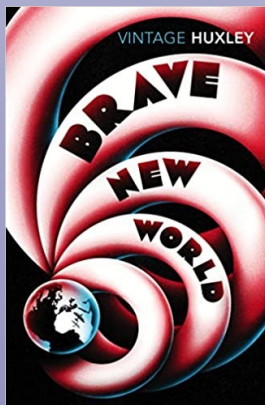
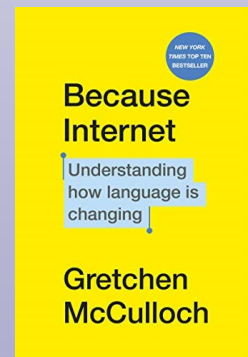


## **The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde - by R. L. Stevenson**

This book is a staple of British fiction, recognisable to most. The story is engaging and very interesting. I like the protagonist, Mr Utterson and having a plot about two characters from the perspective of another is certainly unique. The story has inspired many, many others even to this day, and within the great novel is a great deal of information regarding 19th century London. I love this book and would absolutely recommend it.

## **Because Internet - by Gretchen McCulloch**

This is a non-fiction book about how language has evolved because of the internet. Though language has always changed, seldom does it change so drastically in such a short window of time as it does now. Understanding why and how this happens is important since this impacts all of us and the manner in which we communicate. The book is well-written and succinct, yet informative. I would absolutely suggest reading it if the topic interests you.



## **Brave New World - by Aldous Huxley**

This dystopian fiction presents a nightmare-esque version of the future, warning of the dangers of technology and the lack of humanity in efficiency. The premise is that Henry Ford is revered as a God and humans are considered merely vessels to complete tasks. Through hyperbole, much of the content is comparable to today's circumstances, such as IVF.

If you enjoy dystopian fiction, this book is certainly something I would suggest picking up. It presents great ethical dilemmas and a daunting perspective on technology and capitalism.

## **Up at the Villa - by W.S. Maugham**

This fictional story is about a woman who has given up on love, and her journey of rejecting her feelings in the name of practicalism, and how this perspective is something she does not wholly believe in. Though short, the novella tells an interesting story with beautiful description of Florence, Italy - it is worth reading almost for the setting alone. I would recommend reading the novella if romance interests you. The author is very renowned for his intricate writing style.

