



Moat Farm Book Reviews

April 2020





Teacher recommended reads



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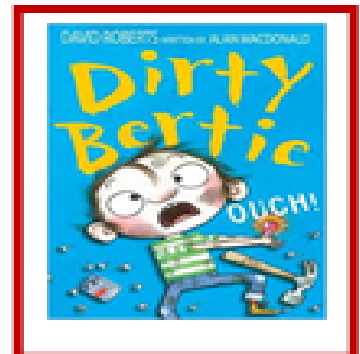
Ms. Stone recommends *'The Buried Crown by Ally Sherrick'* because...



This is a historical action novel that is so exciting to read. It is set during the Second World War and the main characters are George and Kitty who have to save a priceless ancient crown that Hitler wants to steal. The legend is that whoever wears the crown, controls England and the Empire. The historical details are accurate and make the story seem real. This book would particularly suit Year 6 children but if you are a confident reader and want to discover more about the Second World War, I would really recommend it. I actually did not want to stop reading once I had started.

Mrs. Miles recommends *'Dirty Bertie Ouch! Written by Alan MacDonald'* because...

I read this book with my class and they enjoyed it so much that they all wanted to get a Dirty Bertie book from the library on their next visit. The range of Dirty Bertie books tells the hilarious adventures of a boy with disgusting habits from picking his nose to eating sweets off the floor. He is full of crazy ideas and if its trouble you are after, look no further than Dirty Bertie. I am sure you will not be able to finish this book without laughing.





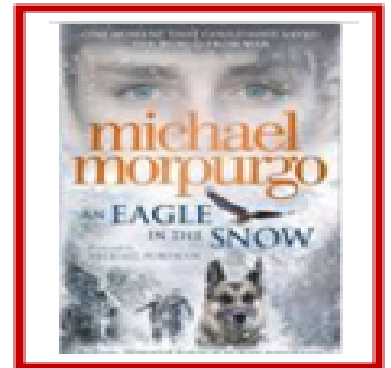
Mrs. Millard recommends '*Cogheart by Peter Bunzl*' because...



Cogheart is a story filled with mystery, twists and turns. A thrilling read that keeps you wanting to turn the page. Lilly's Mother passed away many years ago and now her Father has disappeared leaving her in the care of the housekeeper. Lilly's life becomes in mortal danger as she, along with her friends Robert (the clockmaker's son) and Malkin (a mechanimal sent by her father before he vanished) are stalked by silver-eyed men. What could they want from her? As the story progresses, Lilly begins to realise that those she holds dear to her, may just be the very ones to break her heart.

Miss Roberts recommends '*An Eagle in The Snow by Michael Morpurgo*' because...

I love history, especially World War 1 and 2. This book is based on a true story about a man who could have prevented the second world war from happening. The story is set in 1940 about a boy who is on a train escaping to the countryside but a German fighter plane tries to shoot the train so they stay inside the tunnel. There in the tunnel, a strange man tells him a story about his friend, the most decorated soldier of the first world war, the person who had a chance to end the war before it had even begun. I could not put it down. It is definitely one of my favourites!





Mrs. Bolton recommends *'Skellig by David Almond'* because...



Family, friendship, mystery and intrigue. Michael is in turmoil as his family move to a dilapidated house away from his friends. At this difficult time, he is also worried about his baby sister who is in and out of hospital. While exploring the wilderness, that is his garden, he enters a crumbling garage. In the darkest corner, Michael stumbles upon a strange creature – barely alive.

An enjoyable read. I was desperate to find out who or what the strange creature was. Why was he there? The story didn't disappoint.

Mrs Bolton recommends *'The Explorer by Katherine Rundell'* because...

An adventure story that tells of four children stranded in the perilous Amazon rainforest when the small, private plane they are travelling in plummets into the canopy. Throughout the experience, Katherine Rundell works her mastery telling the story with her language choices and sentence structures to paint a vivid picture in the reader's mind. As the days progress, we learn more about each of the characters and the relationships they build whilst trying to survive the inhospitable environment. During their quest to survive we get to share their hopes, dreams and a glimpse of the lives left behind them.





Mrs. Bolton recommends '*When We Were Warriors*' by Emma Carroll because..



A delight of a read. If you are a fan of historical fiction, then this may be the book for you. Emma Carrol writes this genre beautifully. Three short stories set along the Devon coast about children and their adventures during the summer of 1942 all connected to each other by an interesting thread.

Story one 'The Night Visitors'

When a bomb destroys Stanley's house, he and his sisters are evacuated to a large, remote (supposedly haunted) house in the Somerset hills. Shortly after arriving at Frost Hollow Hall, the children are told there are three places on the property they are forbidden to go. Immediately June (Stan's elder sister) and Clive, a trouble-maker, invent a game of dares!



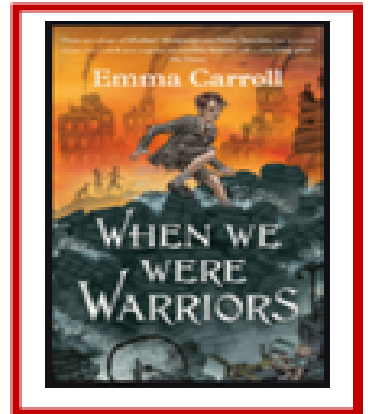
Story two 'Olive's Army'



This story takes place at Budmouth Point, not far from Frost Hollow Hall. Olive and her younger brother Cliff have been evacuated from London and are staying with the lighthouse keeper. Sukie, their older sister is with the post mistress in the village along with friend Esther. One evening, a body is washed up on the beach bringing the threat of a German invasion!

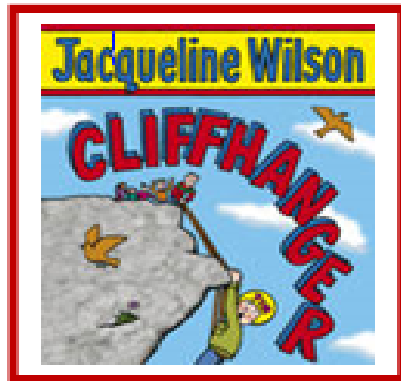
Story three 'Operation Greyhound'

Just up the coast from Budmouth lighthouse is Plymouth where the final story is set. When another air raid siren goes off, Velvet heads to the local shelter with her best friend Lynn. Arriving at the shelter, the girls are greeted by a new air raid warden, who unlike the old warden, is adamant that pets are not welcome. Velvet and Lynn work together to find alternative arrangements for the pets and their owners.





Mr. Deane recommends '*Cliffhanger*' by Jacqueline Wilson because...



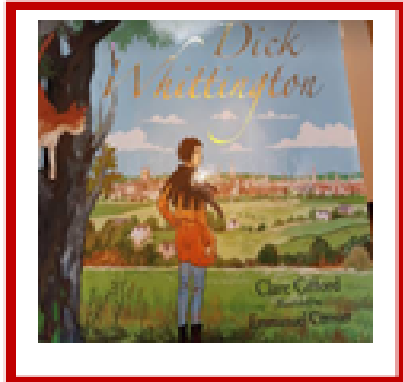
This is the story of Tim who is reluctantly sent on an adventure holiday by his parents. Sports are not Tim's favourite pastime so when he finds out he will be climbing, abseiling, canoeing amongst others he is not pleased and sends his parents a postcard as soon as he arrives asking them to come collect him immediately.

Each day brings with it a new activity and Tim unfortunately is disastrous at each and every one of them. He forgets the vital instruction of holding onto the rope and finds himself dangling off the cliff - don't worry, it turns out okay! Tim's team, The Tigers are rapidly falling behind in the points race for the winners of each activity so his teammates are not too pleased, especially Giles and Kelly, the most competitive children on the team. They make fun of Tim and his new friend "Biscuits" (his nickname for exactly the reason you are thinking) as he is not good at the activities either.

This was a very entertaining read. Tim's postcards home to his parents contain a nice sense of humour when he expresses his anguish at the situation and his wish for his parents to collect him immediately. Children who read the book will find that they can relate to Tim. They may not be good at sports either and there are times when we all struggle to do things we find difficult. Bullying is dealt with showing the difficulty of dealing with a bully and Tim and "Biscuits" showed that they could stand up to Giles and Kelly who were making fun of them. There is also a cute and humorous end to the story.



Mr. McCormick recommends '*Dick Whittington by Clare Gifford*' because



A great 'rags to riches' story with great morals: kindness even in the face of adversity, perseverance and risk taking! It also has elements of comedy, comment on the darker side of life (poverty, cruelty, disappointments), adventure and not forgetting a little bit of romance (urgh!)

Find our next book reviews for May very soon!