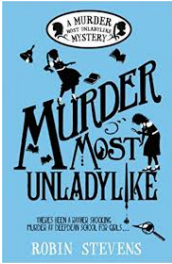


READING DENS' BOOKLIST

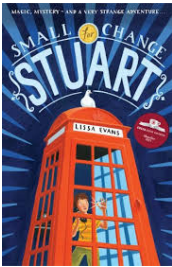


Murder Most Unladylike Mysteries by Robin Stevens

So far there are 5 or 6 books in this series.

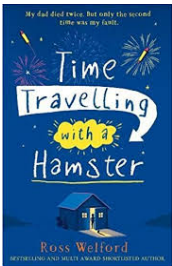
Hazel Wong and Daisy Wells are boarders at Deepdean School where they have established the Wells and Wong Detective Society. And, as luck would have it, they keep finding themselves involved in murder mysteries.

The books are well written with great stories that keep you interested right to the end. I have read the first three books twice and am just about to re-read the fourth!



Small Change for Stuart by Lissa Evans

This is the first in a series about a boy who moves to a dreary town only to find himself at the centre of an excellent adventure. His quest is to find his great uncle's lost workshop and he has to solve loads of puzzles along the way. The book has a great blend of magic, mystery and humour.

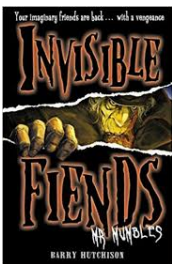


Time Travelling with a Hamster by Ross Welford

Any book that starts with:

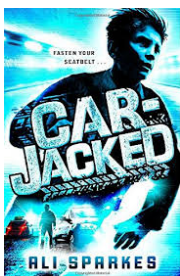
'My dad died twice. Once when he was thirty-nine, and again four years later when he was twelve. (He's going to die a third time as well, which seems a bit rough on him, but I can't help that.)'

has to make you sit up and take notice! The clue is in the title as to the nature of this book, it is of course a time travelling story. It is also exciting, heart warming and unputdownable.



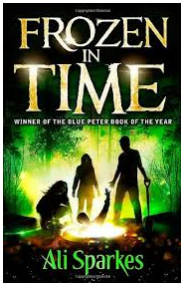
Mr Mumbles by Barry Hutchison

This is the first book in the Invisible Fiends series. If you like something on the creepy side, this will definitely give you goosebumps. Kyle's imaginary friend from his childhood comes back only now he is a fiend rather than a friend! Never thought I would read, let alone enjoy, a book like this but I was amazed at how much I enjoyed it.



Car-Jacked by Ali Sparkes

I honestly can't think of a more exciting book! Jack is a young genius who just happens to be in the back of his parents' car when it is stolen. He may be the brainiest boy in the world but nothing has prepared him for what turns out to be the adventure of a lifetime. The pace of this book is incredible, I think I read it in one sitting - reading late into the night.

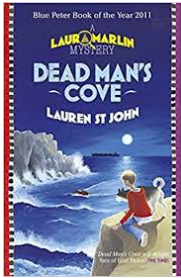


Frozen in Time by Ali Sparkes

Although this story is completely different from Car-Jacked it is also brilliant! Brother and sister, Ben and Rachel, discover an underground vault and another brother and sister, Freddy and Polly, who have been frozen since 1956!

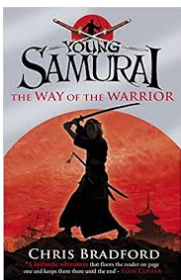
As well as having to adapt to life in the 21st Century, Freddy and Polly, with the help of Ben and Rachel, have to solve the mystery of where their father is and why he left them frozen in time.

Ali Sparkes' storytelling is superb, great plots that are believable, interesting and exciting.



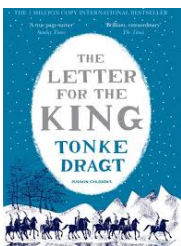
Laura Marlin Mysteries by Lauren St John

As soon as you open a book by Lauren St John you just lose yourself. She has a great writing style that 'speaks' to you and transports you to another place. The Laura Marlin mysteries are well thought out stories with good plots and Laura herself is the sort of girl you would like as a friend. Her best friend, and side kick, is a boy called Tariq. They meet up in the first story Dead Man's Cove and go on to have a whole series of adventures in different parts of the world.



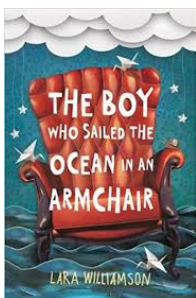
Young Samurai Series by Chris Bradford

Set in 17th Century Japan, Jack Fletcher, a young English boy is shipwrecked. His father and crew have been slaughtered by ninja pirates but Jack is rescued by a legendary sword master and his only chance for survival is to train as a Samurai Warrior. This is a really exciting, beautifully observed, tale of ninjas, swords and martial arts.



The Letter for the King by Tonke Dragt

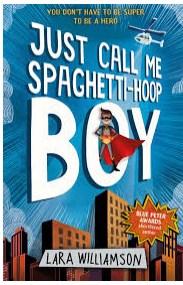
Anyone who likes a good old fashioned quest need look no further, this is one of THE BEST quest books ever! On the eve of becoming a Knight, Tiuri disobeys a rule in order to answer a cry for help. This one simple act leads him into an adventure of epic proportions. In true quest style, he has to solve problems and overcome barriers whilst travelling across his Kingdom of Dagonaut, in the East, to the Kingdom of Unauwen, in the West, finding danger and friendship along the way.



The Boy Who Sailed the Ocean in an Armchair by Lara Williamson

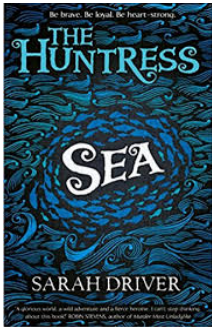
Like Lauren St John, Lara Williamson's writing just 'speaks' to you! From the first page to the last you are in the company of the most wonderful characters. In this book, two brothers, Beckett and Billy move house in the middle of the night with their dad leaving everything behind - including their dad's girlfriend Pearl. Beckett and Billy have no idea what is going on and are determined to get to the bottom of this unexpected turn of events. PLUS they love Pearl and want to go back to their old house and the way things were. There's lots of funny moments in this book but it is also handles some upsetting issues with great sensitivity.

Adults beware, this is a very moving book.



Just Call Me Spaghetti-Hoop Boy by Lara Williamson

Oh my goodness, the Boy Who Sailed the Ocean in an Armchair made me weep, however, I was close to a complete breakdown with this book. It is a great story but SO moving. Basically, Adam Butters is adopted and due to a misunderstanding he thinks he needs to leave the family he has lived with since he was a baby. He loves them all dearly and he tries to work things out in a way which he thinks will make things easy for them. Lara Williamson is such a fantastic writer, you live every moment with Adam, the narrator of this story.

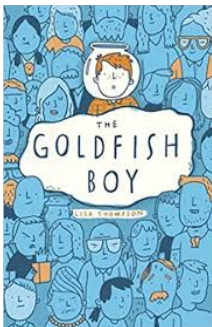


The Huntress Sea by Sarah Driver

The Huntress is the name of this series and Sea is the first book, the other have still to be written! The Huntress is also the name of the ship where the adventure starts. I think the words on the back cover sum up the feel of this book best:

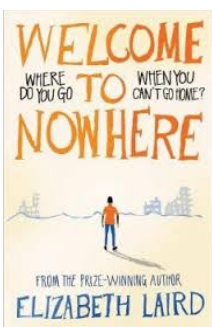
Sea-churning
Beast-chattering
Dream-dancing
Whale-riding
Terrodyl-flying
World-saving adventure.

When you read it you will understand why the above are so apt!



The Goldfish Boy by Lisa Thompson

Matthew is a young boy who is suffering from Obsessive Compulsive Disorder. He finds it difficult to leave his room and has to keep cleaning to ensure his environment is germ free. This sounds like an unusual hero for a book, and it is! However, Matthew's circumstances result in him being at the centre of a mystery when a toddler visiting his next door neighbour goes missing. Matthew's keen observations and intelligence help him to unravel the mystery, and, take the first steps on his road to recovery.



Welcome to Nowhere by Elizabeth Laird

I think this might be the perfect book! I have to be honest and say I wasn't sure if it would be my cup of tea. It is about a family having to leave their home in Syria due to the war and their journey to a refugee camp. I thought it might be very harrowing and upsetting but from the first page Elizabeth Laird's writing captivated me. I loved, and cared about, the family so much I couldn't put the book down. They do face hardship, there is no shying away from the awful situation they are in but there is warmth and charm in abundance. I also loved the way the story ended and the handing over of responsibility for the family's outcomes to the reader - very smart and thought provoking. If there was one book I would recommend everyone should read it would be this one.