

LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER
2025

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Winter Must-Reads

Looking for a cozy winter read? Find out what's popular this winter!

Newsletter Book reviews

Check out a librarian's opinion on one of our most popular series - The Naturals.

Competition

A brand new competition is in the works! Find out the brief and prizes!

Short Stories

Read the winner of the Halloween writing competition's story and an exciting winter story!

COMPETITIONS

UPCOMING

COMPETITIONS:

WINTER WRITING: See what the brief is to have the chance to win a prize!

OPPORTUNITIES

- Book club (ask Mrs Hazeltine-Rees to be added to the Teams page).
- Dungeons and Dragons club (every Thursday after school in the library)
- Library club enrichment
- Reading enrichment

MORE INFO

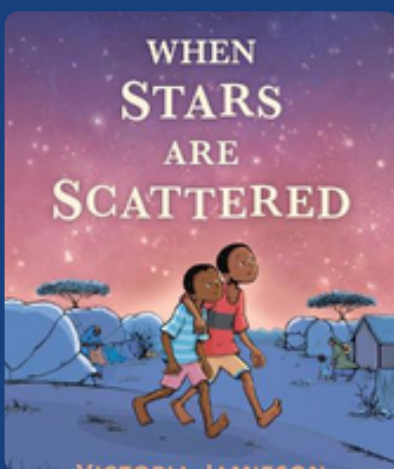
THE LIBRARY
Mrs Hazeltine-Rees ROOM 22

Winter BEGINS WITH A COZY BOOK.

WINTER MUST- READS

As seasons change, so does your to-be-read. These books below are winter guaranteed - We can ensure you'll enjoy them.

BORROW NOW!



When stars are scattered

A powerful graphic novel about two refugee brothers navigating hope, hardship, and the meaning of family in a Kenyan camp



Winter Magic

A collection of magical winter-themed short stories that blend mystery, adventure, and festive wonder.



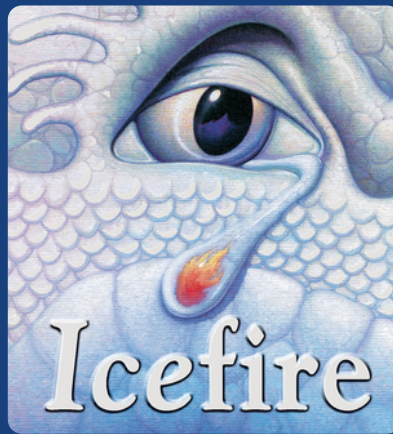
The Christmasaurus and the winter witch

A heartwarming festive fantasy where a boy and a rare dinosaur team up with the Winter Witch to save Christmas magic.



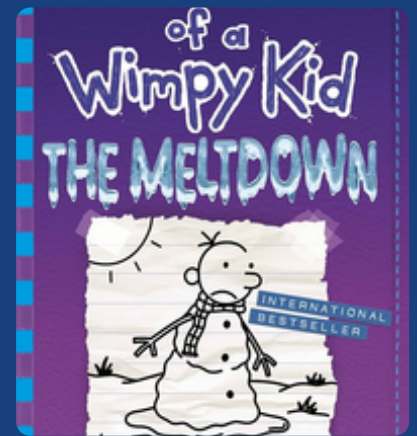
Flight

A gripping tale of courage and discovery as a young girl embarks on a daring airplane adventure that changes everything.



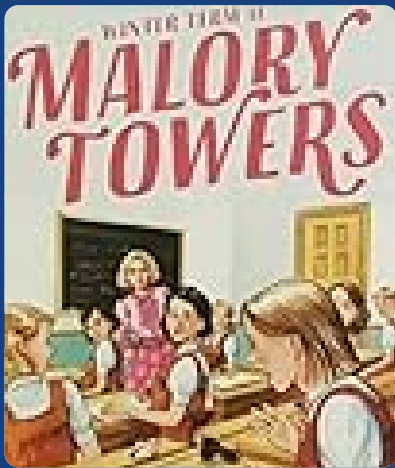
Icefire

A fantasy adventure where ancient dragons, hidden powers, and dangerous quests collide in a battle between destiny and fear.



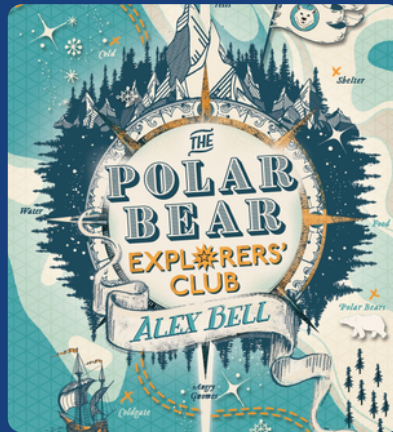
The Meltdown

Greg Heffley faces snow-day chaos as his neighbourhood erupts into an epic winter battlefield.



Winter term at Malory Towers

Darrell and her friends return for a frosty term filled with school drama, surprises, and classic boarding-school mischief.



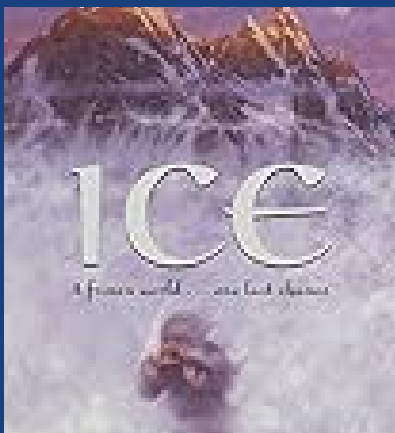
Polar bear explorers' club

A whimsical Arctic adventure where a brave girl joins a daring expedition full of monsters, magic, and icy secrets.



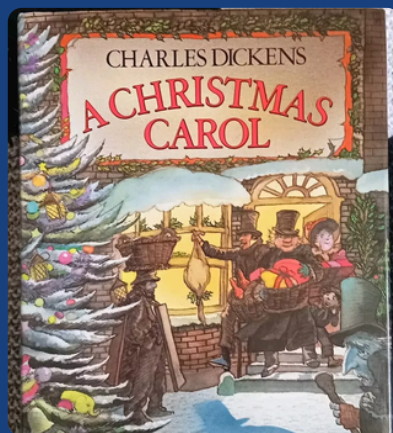
This winter

A raw, emotional novella following three siblings as they navigate family tension and mental health during a difficult Christmas.



Ice

A poetic, atmospheric story about a young woman journeying across a surreal frozen world in search of someone she loves.



A Christmas carol

Ebenezer Scrooge is visited by three ghosts who lead him on a life-changing journey of compassion, memory, and redemption.



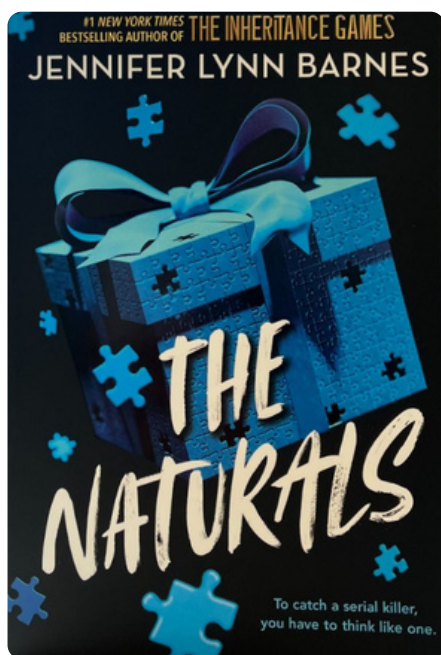
The twelve days of dash and lily

A festive romantic comedy where Dash and Lily race to save their relationship over twelve unpredictable holiday days.

BOOK REVIEWS

Looking for a jaw
dropping mystery over
the Christmas holidays?

READ NOW!



THE NATURALS

This book is the first of the naturals series and is an amazing novel about specially skilled teenagers capturing serial killers! Cassie joins the team of naturals after being recruited to help solve the crimes. It is action packed with suspense and plot twists to keep you on your feet. I couldn't put it down.



KILLER INSTINCT

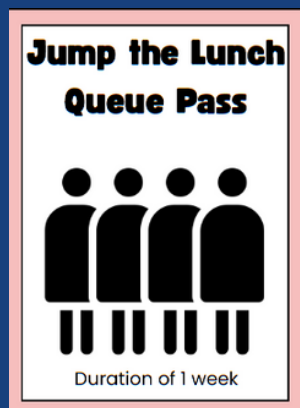
This is the second book in the naturals series. Throughout this book you uncover secrets about Dean's (a fellow natural) serial-killer father. Through this traumatic case for Dean, we see him and Cassie create a close bond as well as the naturals friendships becoming closer.



**THE
LIBRARY**

CHRISTMAS LIBRARY COMPETITION

We would like you to write a descriptive poem which shows what the holidays means to you. Describe what reminds you of winter (smell, hear, taste e.g.) There will be prizes including a jump the queue pass, sweets, mystery prizes and lots more.



Due on
Thursday 18th
December

PRIZES

Contacts

You can visit The Library (Room 41A) and ask a librarian to submit your design. You can also place it into the design submission box there, or ask visit Miss Hazeltine-Rees in room 22.

Read on!





published stories

THE LIBRARY

Why didn't the snow fall this Christmas?

(Inspired by the story of the Grinch)

By Clara Phillips

The sun rose on Christmas morning, illuminating the sky in the most gorgeous pastel colours. Eyes so wide Isabelle realised, heart beating like a drum, it was time! She leaped out of her bed with such enthusiasm that it seemed that the ground actually shook. Sprinting down the stairs, as quick as a cheetah, she ran into the living room. There before her very eyes lay the most horrifying scene. The tree stood as bare as a freshly shaved lamb, presents destroyed so badly you would think an animal had broken in. Worst of all however, the star was as shattered as a recently smashed vase. Isabelle screamed. Someone...or something had stolen Christmas!

The morning of Boxing day

Her eyes opening slightly, the heaviness of sleep felt overwhelming. Raising her head slowly, glancing at get stocking for a brief second, Isabelle's eyes widened with surprise. It was full to the brim with presents. Curiosity getting the better of her, she leapt up with joy. Scrambling over to the stocking the bewilderment seem to fill her body from the top of her head to the tips of her toes. Jumping up with joy, she realized Santa hadn't forgotten. Rushing into her parents room and shaking them awake, she screamed at the top of her lungs " Santa's been! Santa came!" Quickly hushing her up and sitting her down on the beds, her parents told her about how the Grinch how to stolen Christmas, but Santa had fixed it. But that year, there's no didn't fall on Christmas Day.

Halloween Competition Winner

The Whispering Woods

by Hossein Hossini 7G

The first night was fine. A fire, some hot dogs, joking around and dying laughing. But when the fire went out and the moon was barely visible it suddenly felt colder. The silence filled the air. Then came a sound, small and soft. Liam wasn't sure if it was real or not.

"Liam..."

It was his name. A sound like leaves dragging across the ground. Liam sat up straight in his sleeping bag. "Did you guys hear that?" he said in a tiny, shaky voice.

Tom grunted. "Hear what? Just the wind?"

"No, my name. Someone said my name."

Ben gave a quick cough that didn't feel real. "Chill out Liam. It's the Whispering Woods. That's the whole point."

But everyone knew he was lying. It wasn't the wind. It was someone's cold, bad breath. The next, the whispers came for Ben. "Ben..." it hissed quietly, right outside the tent. He froze, his flashlight shaking across the trees. Nothing. Just the dark, silent forest.

"It's not the wind," Ben whispered, his voice shaking. "Someone's messing with us."

They zipped the tent shut, but it still felt like someone was watching them.

Liam and Tom, watching Ben's weird change, felt a new kind of fearful stop this wasn't the monster they expected. This state of mind, not just your body stumbled backwards. The creature reached out a long thin screamed, stumbling over his sleeping bag as he tried to move back drone slept well.

On the final night, the whispers came for Tom. "Tom..." The voice sounded rough, like dry leaves. But this time it came from right under the tent. Liam gasped. The tent floor was bending, like something was pushing up. All around them, voices whispered their names. "Help me stop..." Another whisper high and thin felt like a child's voice was inside Tom's head.

Tom screamed, pulling the zipper hard. He yanked it open looking into the dark. That's when they all saw it.

A tall, thin figure stood in the moonlight. Its skin looked like dry, grey paper. It grinned, too many tiny, sharp teeth like a shark. It wasn't human.

Ben screamed, stumbling over his sleeping bag as he tried to move back. The creature's thin, spiderlike arms moved towards him, quiet and deadly. "You should not have come here," it made a rough, dry sound, like leaves scraping.

Ben stumbled backwards. The creature reached out a long, thin finger and lights like lake touch Ben's cheek. Whispers around Ben, filling his head with fearful stop. Ben's eyes went empty, and a slow creepy smile spread across his face. He wasn't scared anymore. He looked happy, peacefully even.

"Join us..." The whispers changed, now soft and peaceful.

Liam and Tom, watching Ben's weird change, felt a new kind of fear. This wasn't the monster they expected. This stole your—not just your body. They ran out of the tent, falling over their things. The trees seemed to close in, but it was their fear.

The whispers followed, but as thoughts now, not sounds. They heard their worst fear and their biggest mistakes, turned up loud inside their heads. They couldn't see the path back, not because it was gone, but because fear had blinded them. They ran, but the whispers always brought them back to the clearing where Ben and the creature waited.

The creature held a smooth, black mirror. It showed a picture of Liam and Tom, standing next to Ben, all with the same creepy, peaceful smile. The creature didn't speak. The promise was just a feeling in their souls. "You will stay."

The whispers became a soft melodic song, promising an end to all worry. Liam and Tom walked slowly back to the clearing; their eyes fixed on the mirror.

By morning, the campfire was untouched. The tent was still there. Three figures stood, staring at the sky, all smiling the same empty smile. If you listened with your mind, you could still hear the whispers, soft and peaceful for all eternity.

"Welcome home..."

COMPETITION

Title: The Library after dark Protagonist: Lola Merrin
Name: Dina Haassainy Form: 8D Word Count: 500

The Library After Dark

The school library always ~~se~~ closed at four. Everyone knew that. But on Friday evening, as Lola passed the glass doors, she saw a light flickering deep inside.

It shouldn't have been on.
And the door - It wasn't locked.

When she stepped inside, the air felt still, like the room had been holding its breath all day. The smell of dust and paper hung thick. The clock on the wall ticked, but... time felt stretched, like it was trying to crawl backward.

"Mrs Finch?" Lola called softly. Her voice sounded swallowed, as if the shelves absorbed it.

From somewhere, deeper in the library, came a noise - shhkh... scrape... shhkh...
- Like fingertips dragging slowly along the spines of books.

"Hello?" she tried again, still though she wasn't sure why. something about the silence demanded a response.

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To be continued

The Midnight Visitor



At 3 a.m, the Sound of a knock on the window Shivered right through the Spine of the young girl reading her book. Her eyes lifted off of the paper and onto the glass window. There was nothing there.

She Stood to explore and found nothing but darkness blanketing the Sky. Suddenly, out of nowhere, a shadow whizzed past her terrified eyes. Nothing except fear and Silence filled the air. She Stepped back into the house, but before she could close the door-knock. One...two...three. It Carried on. four...five... She looked back. Nothing.

She Slammed the door shut and ran upstairs to her room. Sitting there, she Stared at the window until she saw something. Something dark and scary. The figure of a human stood there, and ^{stood} ^{stared} back. Its head ^{tilt} tilted. Then it grinned. She froze. The light flickered and the figure vanished like smoke in ^{thin} air.

She rushed to her bed, heart thudding, pulling the blanket over her face like a shield. Minutes passed. Maybe hours. Silence. When she finally peeked out, the window was wide open. The wind howled softly through it.

But what made her Stomach drop- On her mirror, written in fog, were the words:

"Thanks for letting me in..."

A Slow creak echoed from the hallway.

Her bedroom door... was opening....



THE LIBRARY NEWSLETTER - WINTER EDITION

THANK YOU FOR READING



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Written by:

Ameera Khatrush

Alice Williams

Lily Francis

Clara Phillips

If you are a regular user of the Library and would like to help write this newsletter - let us know!