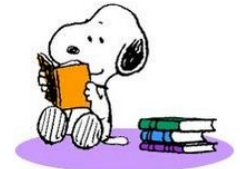




RGS: Bonkers About Books!

February 2026



Hi,

Gosh, where has February gone? Our month of adventure books is nearly over, but I'm sharing the list of recommendations again because there are some great books on there!

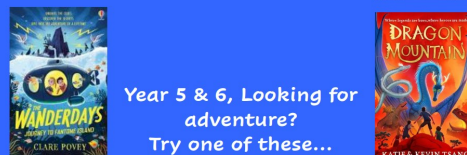
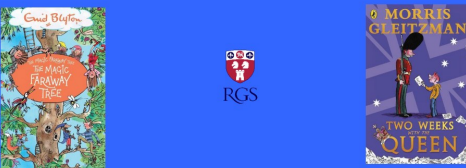
We're ending February with a bookish bang on Friday: assembly will be a whole school drop everything and read session with all Junior School students and staff reading in one room! Look out for pictures!

Happy reading!

Mrs Wall



Year 3 & 4, Looking for adventure?
Try one of these...



Year 5 & 6, Looking for adventure?
Try one of these...



Parent Prompts.

Questions to ask whilst listening to your child read:

- Find the word that is closest in meaning to...
- How do these words make the reader feel? How does this paragraph suggest this?



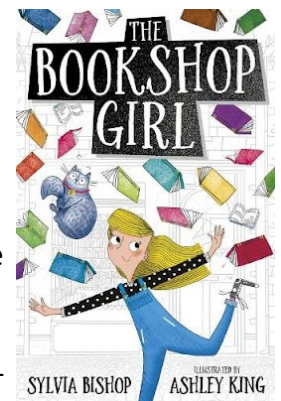
The Bookshop Girl - Sylvia Bishop

Property, Michael and Netty Jones all live in a slightly chilly but cosy book shop called The White Hart; however, when they win a chance-in-a-lifetime raffle and become the proud owners of the Montgomery Book Emporium, their lives change forever. As they begin their new adventure, who is the mysterious stranger in the grey coat? What does he want and will he discover Property's big secret?

This is a book I'd been meaning to read for a while and I'm so pleased I did! I love anything to do with book shops and libraries (Pages & Co, The Dragon in the Library, The Lost Magician...) but I particularly liked the quirkiness of this book: the reason behind Property's name, the idea of the hammocks, the entire concept of the Book Emporium...

Property is an incredibly perceptive and observant young lady (for reasons that will become apparent) and the Gunther makes a perfect side-kick (never has so much been said by a character without a single word being uttered!).

There's just the right mix of adventure and mystery in this book and I'd recommend it particularly to Year 3 and 4.



Clem Fatale Has Been Upstaged - Eve Wersocki Morris

It's the summer of 1951 and Clem and Gilbert are back in their second adventure. This time the action starts at the London Palladium when one half of the Wade Sisters, Betty, goes missing, along with expensive jewellery. Fearing the sister's disappearance is a kidnapping during a burglary, the sisters' brother and manager, Eddy Wade, calls in Clem to investigate. But time is of the essence as the girls are scheduled to perform on stage in performances set to earn them a lot of money so not performing will cost them dearly. It's up to Clem and Gilbert to save the day.

I absolutely adored *Clem Fatale Has Been Betrayed* and I gobbled it up last year when I read it (you can read my review [here](#)) so I was thrilled when a copy of **Clem Fatale Has Been Upstaged** arrived for me.

Readers are once again thrown back to 1951 and the nostalgia of the London underworld. The plot is fast-paced and entertaining, both in the action and the smile it will put on readers' faces. The twists will keep you guessing and make the book unputdownable.

Clem's fierce independence is once again at the fore, as is Gilbert's charming innocence (which really makes me chuckle), but behind Clem's strong façade there are doubts about her friendship with Gilbert for he is now torn between their investigation and life at his new boarding school (St Loquacious Institute for Little Lords), but instead of talking to him, Clem's stubborn streak comes out and she stewes on her thoughts instead - the book definitely reminds readers that talking is better than letting your brain whir; after all, they make the perfect crime fighting duo (even with Clem's background!).

Out now, **Clem Fatale Has Been Upstaged** is another rip-roaring success. With new foes to meet, this is a book that readers won't be able to put down. Clem Fatale may be the youngest crook in London, but she's certainly making a name for herself as the youngest crime fighter as well, and I can't wait to see what awaits her and Gilbert next.

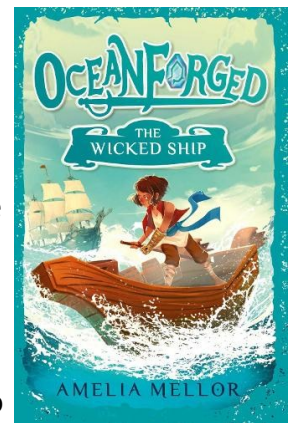


Oceanforged: The wicked Ship - Amelia Mellor

Fleeing a life she doesn't like, Cori boards a ship with hopes that life will become better for her. However, things don't get much better at sea, that is until she discovers the Oceanforged Gauntlet. This is a piece of armour that belonged to the Champions Cori has seen in paintings that made her dream of what she may become. And now, it would seem as if those dreams may become a reality. But, once the gauntlet attaches itself to her, she is forced to flee the crew of the pirate ship she'd become part of, especially the captain who is desperate to have the gauntlet for himself.

At the beginning of the book, Cori is orphaned, and is forced to fend for herself. She's clearly a feisty character who isn't afraid to take a risk. In her attempt to find a better life for herself, she ends up aboard a pirate ship with a truly awful captain. It is during a trip to raid a village that Cori inadvertently ends up with the gauntlet when the captain sends her in to the booby-trapped vault (think Indiana Jones - I really loved this bit!). When she discovers the glove and it permanently attaches itself to her arm, she flees in the hope that going it alone will finally provide her with the life she deserves.

The first in a new series, **The Wicked Ship** is an adventure that readers will absolutely love. At 216 pages, it's a quicker read which helps to maintain the action, and the full-page illustrations and map add just the right amount of visual stimulus. With the perfect mix of pirates, peril and pace, this is a book that will leave readers desperate for more.



This edition of Bonkers About Books was proof-read by:

Zeena and Ava



Monster Down Deep - Amy Fellner Dominy

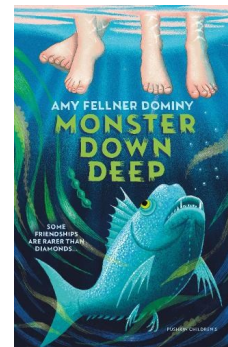
Cassie is a beachcomber who is on the hunt for a diamond necklace that was lost at sea after a yacht sank. It's during one of her searches that she meets TJ, a fellow beachcomber and potential threat to her spoils. It's also where she meets Blue, a very unusual fish whose life is in danger. Time is of the essence for both Blue and the necklace but can Cassie trust TJ in order to do what is right?

Cassie and her dad are close since the death of her mum when she was only 3. The pair share a love of the ocean and when Cassie isn't scouring the sands, she loves nothing more than spending time at the local aquarium where her dad is an aquarist. She is a fiercely determined character with a love of sea-life; in fact she seems to have an uncanny affiliation with it, and this became apparent when she meets Blue (who makes the most wonderful character in his own right). Then there's TJ who is furiously annoying in Cassie's eyes and a threat to her beachcombing. The pair spark off each other but both are harbouring secrets about themselves.

Told in dual narrative, **Monster Down Deep** gives the unique voice of Blue and a fish-eyed view of the world. It's a delightful take on the narrative and one that means readers will find themselves losing a bit of their heart to this unusually wonderful fish.

Monster Down Deep is a gorgeous story that will enchant readers. With just the right amount of adventure and daring. It's a captivating read that I gobbled up in a morning because I couldn't bare to leave that Southern California beach! It's about being brave and being fierce; it's about family, friendship and overcoming your fears, and it's the perfect read to warm your heart during these dreary winter days.

I was lucky enough to have 2 copies of **Monster Down Deep** (a proof and a final version) so a child in my class who devours books and I read the book at the same time last weekend. Here's what she thought: Entrancing all the way through, this meaningful book had me captured from the very first word. This is unputdownable! My mood rose and dropped with the book; it's outstanding. The adventure, the determination, the friendship weaved into this really shows the love that this was written with. It was like I was right there with them. A perfect animal book for all ages.



Inkbound: Meticulous Jones And The Shadow Compass—Philippa Leathley

Metty is spending Founder's Day at the parade with her father and Faith when a tombstone bearing her name appears, followed by another and another. Following the trail leads Metty and Faith to an underground cathedral and a group known as the League of Shadows who are desperate for Metty to join them, all she has to do is complete three tasks. Before she can make a decision, Aunt Mags appears and drags Metty away, but she isn't to be put off, especially when someone threatens to tell the world about Sundar. Metty feels like joining the League of Shadows is the only way to help, so she vows to complete the challenges before the next full moon. It's a race against time and one Metty isn't certain she can make but she's going to do everything in her power to try.

I was woefully late to the party with *The Skull Tattoo* (you can read my review [here](#)) but I quickly learned the error of my ways, and Philippa's visit to school last term ensured that Inkbound fever was rife amongst the children! It will come as no surprise then that my pre-ordered copy of **Meticulous Jones And The Shadow Compass** jumped my reading pile when I picked it up.

Following the events at the end of *The Skull Tattoo*, Metty is clearly nervous but she is also a Jones and one with fierce determination running through her bones. She is not to be put off once she has an idea in her head, even if Aunt Mags and her father are telling her to stop (in fact, this spurs her on more than anything!). The challenges she faces push her to her limits, especially as it's a race against time for more than one reason. The plot unfolds in an exciting mix of adventure, jeopardy and twists - but exactly who can Metty trust?

Usually, when I begin a book on a Sunday evening during term time, it takes me until at least the following weekend to finish it; however, I found myself grabbing every spare minute I could to read just a few more pages, such was the gripping plot (yes, this did mean I stole some reading time whilst eating my lunch, and numerous children saw me reading as I walked down the corridor before school in the mornings!). The tension and the excitement ooze through the pages which is what makes the book unputdownable. I gobbled it up in a few short days and I'm now desperate for book 3!

