

Birch Hill Primary School

Year of Reading

Reading List Year 5

Beetle Boy by M.G. Leonard



Winner of the Branford Boase Award 2017

A rollicking adventure spiced up with fascinating information about beetles, this debut novel fuses science, survival and sleuthing! Darkus's life is turned upside down when his father goes missing. Darkus refuses to accept that his father is dead and he is determined to find out what happened for himself. Sent to stay with his uncle, he discovers the strange neighbours have a yard full of junk – and beetles. Darkus is befriended by a handsome, giant beetle who seems to understand Darkus and is also connected to his dad's disappearance. What is going on? And who is Lucretia Cutter, one of the best villainess since Cruella de Vil? ~ **Julia Eccleshare**

Little Bits of Sky by S.E. Durrant

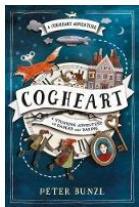


Shortlisted for the Branford Boase Award 2017

This moving story of looked-after children describes the difficulties they face, but is nonetheless uplifting. Ira and her little brother Zac live in Skilly House, what Tracy Beaker would call a dumping ground. There are things they like about it including the staff, kindly Hortense and Silas who was in care himself, though not stern Mrs Clark. They love the garden, with its huge tree. Carved into the trunk is a name, Glenda Hyacinth, 1947. Ira decides Glenda must be a ghost (the story is set in the late 1980s) and imagines she sees her playing in the garden. Holiday visits to a lady in the country lead to a permanent home, but Ira is sad to leave Skilly House, especially as by then she's learned something surprising about Glenda. Children will be caught up in Ira and Zac's story from the first page, and will understand them perfectly by the last.

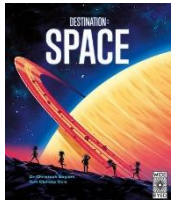
Subtle and beautifully told this will appeal to readers who have enjoyed **The Illustrated Mum** by Jacqueline Wilson. ~ **Andrea Reece**

Cogheart by Peter Bunzl



In a nutshell: tick-tocking frequently airborne adventure From its opening scene aboard an airship harpooned in mid-air, Cogheart is filled with fabulous visual images and a tangible sense of adventure. It follows the story of Lily, whose inventor father is missing, presumed dead after the airship crash. What secrets was he keeping and why are others so determined to find them out? Lily is a great character but readers' hearts are likely to be won by her companion Malkin, a clockwork fox, one of many automatons created by her father. The story proceeds at speed reaching its climax – where else – but on the face of Big Ben, the world's most famous clock!

Destination Space by Christopher Englert



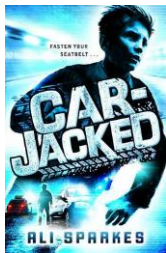
Shortlisted for the Blue Peter Book Award 2017 - Best Books with Facts

Beginning with the beginning of time itself, the Big Bang, and including topics such as dark energy, gravity and the life cycle of a star, there's a huge amount of fascinating information in this book, presented clearly and succinctly. Dr

Christopher Englert's text is accessible, even when describing complex theories, and inspiring; Tom Clohosy Cole's gleaming illustrations are beautiful to look at and support and expand the text. As an added bonus there's a huge double sided poster too. ~

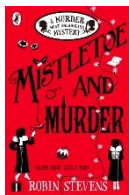
Andrea Reece

Car-Jacked by Ali Sparke



Shortlisted for the Children's Book Award 2017 Readers are plunged straight into the action in Ali Sparke's new thriller: Jack and his parents are on holiday when their car is stolen, with him still on the back seat. The car-jacker turns out to be a kinder, more complex person than expected, while Jack, brought up on a strict regime of study by his over-protective mother, finds life on the run brings him some longed-for freedom. The two form an unusual friendship, that culminates in Jack helping Ross win £5,000 he desperately needs. Jack's adventures make for compulsively page-turning reading, and no matter how high the action rages, it somehow feels credible. High octane fun! ~ **Andrea Reece**

Mistletoe and Murder by Robin Stevens



Shortlisted for Best Crime Novel for Children aged 8-12, Shortlisted for the Children's Book Award 2017

A festive feast of ghastly goings on for fans old and new of the *A Murder Most Unladylike* series. Astute, smart and daring they may be, but trouble sure seems to follow detective duo Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong around. It seems that even a Christmas Holiday to Cambridge is filled with cads, murderers and mysteries. Soon after arriving in Cambridge, Daisy and Hazels' detective senses are tingling as they suspect that a series of practical jokes and a dose of sibling rivalry are much more deadly than they seem. Yet time is of the essence and Daisy (somewhat reluctantly) agrees to join forces with a local detective agency to try and get to the bottom of the murderous goings on before Christmas day. But has Daisy finally met her match with the rival agency?

There's a touch of Sherlock Holmes and Agatha Christie magic within these pages and it makes for an exciting read. ~ **Shelley Fallows**