

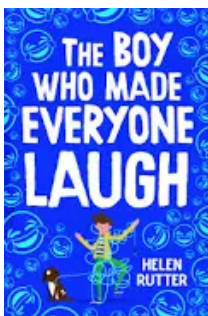




Crestwood Libraries Summer Holiday Recommendations 2026



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These books are all focused on the themes of change and new challenges to support you as you transition to Secondary School. They are recommended by The Book trust as age appropriate for Year

Cover	Title & Author	Synopsis
	'Finding Her Feet' by Eve Ainsworth	Lily is shy, anxious and feels increasingly isolated after being abandoned by her former best friend. Her life changes when an observant PE teacher spots her natural football talent and invites her to join a local girls' team, where she finally begins to build new friendships and find her confidence. However, just as she starts to feel like she truly fits in, an intense argument with a teammate threatens to undo all of her hard-earned progress.
	'The Final Year' by Matt Goodfellow	Nate is a ten-year-old boy navigating the high-stakes pressure, shifting friendships, and heavy expectations of Year Six, his final year of primary school. When a sudden, devastating family crisis hits, his world is turned upside down, pushing him to rely on the power of poetry and a supportive teacher to process his emotions. Ultimately, he must find the inner resilience to face the daunting transition to secondary school and discover who he truly wants to be.
	'The Boy Who Made Everyone Laugh' by Helen Rutter	Eleven-year-old Billy Plimpton is an aspiring stand-up comedian who is terrified of starting secondary school because of his pronounced stammer. To avoid embarrassment and survive his new environment, he comes up with a plan to stay entirely silent until he can find a "miracle cure" for his speech impediment. However, as he faces school bullies and the approach of the end-of-term talent show, Billy must learn to accept his unique voice and realize that he can still make people laugh just the way he is.



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	<p>'The Extremely Embarrassing Life of Lottie Brooks' by Katie Kirby</p>	<p>Eleven-and-three-quarter-year-old Lottie is convinced her life is officially over when she has to start secondary school without her best friend, who has just moved to Australia. Anxious about her lack of "glamorous, swooshy hair," and her soon-to-be-born sibling, she chronicles her daily struggles with identity and puberty in a diary filled with stick-figure doodles. Through a series of highly relatable, cringe-worthy mishaps involving mean girls, accidental farts, and first crushes, Lottie slowly learns to navigate the chaotic jungle of growing up.</p>
	<p>'Everything All At Once' by Steven Camden</p>	<p>This rhythmic and empathetic poetry collection captures the swirling kaleidoscope of the modern teenage experience over the course of a single, chaotic week in a secondary school. Zooming in on an ensemble cast of characters, the poems vividly chart the highs and lows of the hallway—from the terror of fitting in and the sting of spreading gossip to first crushes and inspiring teachers. Ultimately, it uncovers the vulnerability, humour, and heart hidden within ordinary classrooms, proving that for a teenager, everything truly does happen all at once.</p>
	<p>'Moving Up' by Christian Foley</p>	<p>This lively and reassuring guide is the ultimate survival manual for kids tackling the leap from primary to secondary school. Packed with sensitive insights, practical advice, and engaging poetry, the book demystifies everything from first-day nerves and navigating massive new corridors to managing heavy homework loads. By empowering readers to conquer their anxieties and embrace new challenges with confidence, it transforms a scary school transition into an exciting journey of self-discovery and growth.</p>



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The following titles are recommended by our Library Managers, Mr Green and Mrs Parnell-Bray as books we think all young people should read at least once. The main characters are magical, famous, and some are just normal people, but they remind us of our students and the Crestwood spirit!

Cover	Title & Author	Synopsis
	'Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief' by Rick Riordan	Twelve-year-old Percy Jackson thinks he's just a normal, trouble-prone kid with ADHD and dyslexia until he discovers a shocking truth: he is actually a demigod, the son of the Greek god Poseidon. When Zeus's master lightning bolt is stolen and Percy is accused of the crime, he is thrust into a dangerous hidden world of monsters and mythological legends. Alongside a clever daughter of Athena and a loyal satyr protector, Percy must embark on a high-stakes cross-country quest to catch the real thief, recover the bolt, and prevent a devastating war among the gods. Recommended by Mrs Parnell-Bray, Cherbourg Campus Library Manager
	'The Lion Above the Door' by Onjali Q. Rauf	Leo and his best friend Sangeeta feel like the odd ones out in their small English village, especially since they never see anyone who looks like them in their school history books. However, everything changes during a class trip to Rochester Cathedral when Leo spots his exact full name carved into a World War II memorial slab high above the doors. Driven by curiosity and a desire for representation, the friends embark on an epic quest to uncover the identity of this forgotten hero, ultimately fighting to ensure the diverse stories of missing wartime heroes are finally recognized. Recommended by Mrs Parnell-Bray, Cherbourg Campus Library Manager
	'What Happens Online' by Nathanael Lessore	At school, Fred is an invisible, friendless nobody who faces constant bullying, but at home, he transforms into Existor, a hyper-confident, wildly popular online gamer with thousands of loyal followers. When Existor's digital fame spills over into his actual school, Fred seizes the chance to use his anonymous influence to spread outlandish rumors, successfully shunning his bullies and getting people to finally listen to him. However, his curated lies quickly spiral out of control and wreak unexpected havoc across both worlds, forcing Fred to face the consequences of his actions and figure out how to be liked for who he truly is.



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		Recommended by Mrs Parnell-Bray, Cherbourg Campus Library Manager
	'A Wizard of Earthsea' by Ursula K. Le Guin	<p>In the vast archipelago of Earthsea, a reckless young boy named Ged discovers he possesses immense magical talent and leaves his isolated island home to study at a legendary school for wizards. Driven by dangerous pride and a desire to prove his superiority, he accidentally unleashes a terrifying shadow monster into the world during a forbidden magical duel. To mend the tear in reality and save his own soul, Ged must embark on a perilous voyage across dangerous uncharted seas to hunt down the creature and confront his deepest fears.</p> <p>Recommended by Mr Green, Shakespeare Campus Library Manager</p>
	'Away With Words' by Sophie Cameron	<p>In a unique world where spoken words physically manifest in the air as colorful shapes and letters, eleven-year-old Gala struggles to adapt after moving from Spain to a small town in Scotland. Feeling isolated by the language barrier, she forms an unlikely bond with Natalie, a classmate with selective mutism, and together they begin collecting other people's discarded physical words to leave encouraging, anonymous poems around school. However, when someone starts using their secret method to scatter cruel and hateful messages, the girls find themselves blamed for the bullying and must track down the real culprit to save their reputations and their friendship.</p> <p>Recommended by Mr Green, Shakespeare Campus Library Manager</p>
	"Truckers" by Terry Pratchett	<p>To a race of four-inch-high humanoids called the Nomes, the massive department store where they live is the entire universe, and the outside world is nothing but a myth. Their quiet life is upended by the arrival of Masklin, a resourceful outsider from the dangerous "Outside," who brings the terrifying news that the store is about to be demolished. Armed with a mysterious, ancient artifact called the Thing, Masklin must unite the bickering Nome factions and mastermind a daring, high-stakes escape in a stolen human truck to save his people from extinction.</p> <p>Recommended by Mr Green, Shakespeare Campus Library Manager</p>