

# Whytrig Summer Reading

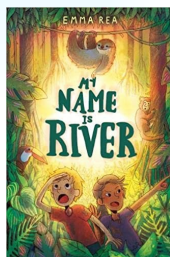
**“Reading gives us someplace to go when we have to stay where we are.” Mason Cooley**

Most of us will be stuck at home this summer, so why not lose yourself in a book? Here are a few suggestions of books that will take you to different places.

## My Name is River

Emma Rea

Dylan's mum thinks he's on the school Geography trip. Dylan's teacher thinks he's at home with the flu. In fact he's 30,000 feet up in the air on the way to Brazil.



This is a great travel book. Two boys go on a trip to Brazil, one to find his younger brother and the other to speak to the CEO of the multinational pharmaceutical company that has bought his family's farm in Wales. Without their parents' knowledge they board a plane and embark on an incredible adventure. Along with Floyd and Lucia, a street child Dylan meets in Salvador, they travel deep into the heart of the Amazon rainforest.

The plot kept me enthralled throughout. The descriptions of the rainforest are detailed and vivid. The importance of conservation is a theme running through the book, concerning not just the rainforest but Dylan's farm in Wales. It also touches on the plight of Brazil's street children and life in the shanty towns and favelas surrounding many major cities.

Above all though, it is a great adventure story.

## The Fox Girl and the White Gazelle

Victoria Williamson

This book involves a different type of travel; travelling to the UK. There have been several books written about refugees in recent years but in my opinion, this is the best.



Caylin lives in Glasgow. Her new neighbour is Reema, a refugee from Syria. The thing they have in common is their love of running. Reema runs to remember the life she left behind in Syria. Caylin runs to find what she's lost. Reema is doing her best to fit in to a new country and culture and Caylin is not keen to help, but eventually, through their desire to help some baby foxes, the girls become friends.

## The Strangeworlds Travel Agency

L. D Lapinski

The Strangeworlds Travel Agency enables people to travel between worlds by stepping into suitcases. When Flick stumbles into the travel agency by accident after moving to a new town, she doesn't realise how many adventures are in store. As she becomes more and more intrigued with the possibility of visiting different worlds, she is drawn into the world of a Strangeworlds traveller. Accompanied by Jonathan, the travel agency Custodian, they go in search of his father who went travelling but failed to return.



This is a great adventure story for lovers of Harry Potter and everything magical.

## The Super Miraculous Journey of Freddie Yates

Jenny Pearson

Following the death of his Gran, Freddie decides to go on a search for other members of his family. His two best mates agree to go with him. This is where their adventure begins.



The story is a laugh-out-loud, fast moving romp around the south of England and large parts of Wales. They meet a host of colourful characters and get themselves into lots of bother. You can't help but like Freddie and want him to succeed on his mission.

The three main characters all learn something about themselves on their journey but it is Freddie who learns the biggest lesson of all; what makes a family. Don't start reading just before bed though - you won't want to put it down!

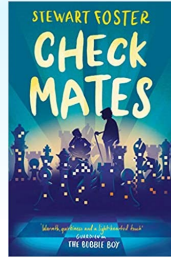
**“A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies . . . The man who never reads lives only one.” George R.R. Martin**

**Books enable us to explore the lives of others. In these books you can find out about other people and even make some new friends.**

### **Check Mates**

**Stewart Foster**

Felix has ADHD and is constantly getting into trouble at school for not sitting still or for saying the first thought that comes into his head. At home things aren't great either. His parents are working all the time and he misses his grandma, who died last year.



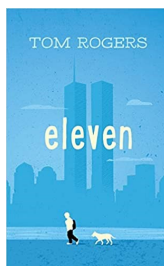
When Felix's parents go away for the weekend leaving him with grandad, Felix is not happy, especially when grandad tries to teach him how to play chess. Felix has no interest in chess whatsoever but once he masters the basics of the game, it turns out he has quite a talent. For once, Felix knows how it feels to be good at something.

This is a lovely story about family relationships with a clear understanding of ADHD thrown into the mix. Add in a little history of life in East Germany during the Cold War and you have the recipe for a great story.

### **Eleven**

**Tom Rogers**

Alex is looking forward to his 11th birthday. All he wants for his birthday is a dog. But his birthday is on September 11th 2001 and the day doesn't go the way he'd planned.



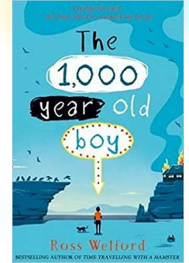
Sent home from school early, he makes his way home with his little sister and on the way he comes across a stray dog. Alex is desperate to keep the dog but knows he should return him to his rightful owner. That is how he meets Mac, who has also been affected by the events of September 11th. Together they wait to see if their loved ones make it home.

Alex's experience is probably not dissimilar from that of hundreds of children on that fateful day who were also waiting to hear news of their family. A lovely, moving book telling of the horror of the events through the eyes of a child.

### **The 1000 Year Old Boy**

**Ross Welford**

Alfie Monk is eleven years old... but he's been that way for over 1000 years. He can remember the Viking invasion of England! Being alive for a thousand years might sound like a great idea but it's a lonely existence when you realize that all of your friends will grow up and move on. Not only that, but you need to keep moving every few years so no-one gets suspicious.



After his mum dies, leaving him all alone, Alfie recognizes that he needs help and he is finally able to make friends with two local children. However, is he the only one around here who hasn't grown old?

Set in the North East, there are places in the book you might recognize - Lindisfarne, Marsden Rock and the coast around Tynemouth.

This is one book I didn't want to end.

### **The Afterwards**

**A.F. Harrold**

A close friendship between two girls comes to a sudden end when Ness dies tragically and unexpectedly. Her friend Ember, in her confusion and grief, searches for answers and a way to turn back time or reverse the tragic events.



In a beautifully written and illustrated book, Ember's search for answers through her trips into the afterworld are cleverly told. You are never quite sure whether the events have actually taken place or whether they are simply her imagination playing tricks on her as she tries to comprehend the awfulness of what has happened.

Although this is a lovely book, dealing with friendship and grief, it may be one for a parent to read first, especially if you have suffered a recent bereavement yourself. It will certainly provoke discussion but may be a way to bring healing and closure.

**Books recommended by Mrs Forrest**