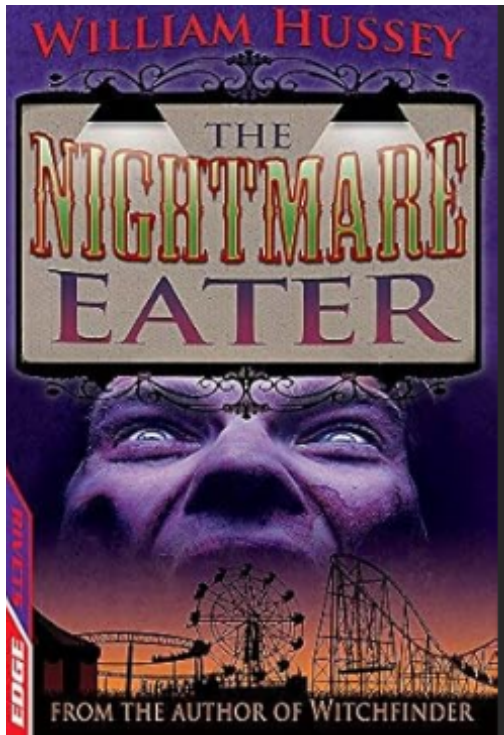


NEWSLETTER

SETTLEBECK READS



Issue 3 | 19/12/2025



The Nightmare Eater is a spine-tingling short story that packs a haunting punch in just 64 pages. Targeted at younger readers aged 9–11, this Rivets series entry centers on 12-year-old Tomasz Kaczmarek who's plagued by gripping nightmares and relentless night terrors. When he's dared into Grimaldi's eerie fairground "House of Horrors," Tomasz confronts a living nightmare - literally - where fear feeds fear in a chilling, Gothic spectacle.

Hussey's atmospheric storytelling is swift yet vivid: warped mirrors, grotesque jesters, and carnival monsters crawl off the page, all illuminated through a lens of childhood dread. The tight pacing - no unnecessary scenes - keeps the tension taut from the first dare to the final terrifying reveal.

Tomasz is a compelling young hero: relatable in his fear, courageous in his resolve, and emotionally resonant as he grapples with grief and the power of facing one's demons. The story balances horror with heart, making it a great pick for early readers ready for something darker.

For kids transitioning into middle-grade horror, The Nightmare Eater is a thrilling gateway - eerily immersive, emotionally smart, and perfectly sized for bedtime chills. Dare to dive in?

Author Spotlight

WILLIAM HUSSEY

William Hussey is a celebrated English author known for his gripping young adult horror, crime thrillers, and LGBTQIA+ fiction. His work spans multiple genres, including supernatural stories, historical fiction, and crime, with popular titles such as the Witchfinder trilogy, the Scott Jericho series, and acclaimed YA novels like Hideous Beauty and The Outrage. Hussey's writing is praised for its emotional depth, compelling characters, and suspenseful plots.

His books often explore themes of identity, resilience, and justice, drawing inspiration from real-life experiences of intolerance and courage.

Among his most notable works, Hideous Beauty is a powerful exploration of love and identity, while The Outrage delivers a dystopian LGBTQ+ thriller that combines action with heartfelt storytelling. His crime series, beginning with Killing Jericho, introduces readers to Scott Jericho, an ex-detective navigating dark and twisty mysteries. This novel earned Hussey the 2024 Fingerprint Award for Genre-Busting Crime Book of the Year. Other recent titles include Broken Hearts & Zombie Parts, Jericho's Dead, and the historical romance The Boy I Love.

Exciting News! We are thrilled to announce that William Hussey will be visiting Settlebeck School on Thursday, 5 March 2026, as part of our World Book Day celebrations. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to hear him speak about his writing journey, discover the inspiration behind his novels, and engage in a lively Q&A session. Don't miss the chance to meet one of today's most dynamic voices in YA fiction!



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Texts Covered in English

Key Stage	Text	Author	Year
Key Stage 3	Animal Farm	George Orwell	2025/26
	Romeo and Juliet	William Shakespeare	
	Ghost Boy	Jewell Parker Rhodes	
	A Monster Calls	Patrick Ness	2026/27
	Much Ado About	William Shakespeare	
	Frankenstein	Mary Shelley	
Key Stage 4	A Christmas Carol	Charles Dickens	2025/26
	Macbeth	William Shakespeare	2026/27
	Where the Crawdad	Delia Owens	
	The Signal Man	Charles Dickens	
	An Inspector Calls	J.B. Priestly	
	Boys Don't Cry	Malorie Blackman	

Competition Time

Do you love reading and sharing your thoughts about great books? Here's your chance to shine!

We are launching a KS3 Book Review Competition for all students who enjoy diving into stories and want to showcase their writing skills.

How to Enter:

- Choose a book from the KS3 Recommended Reads list.
- Write a thoughtful and engaging review of your chosen book. Tell us what you loved (or didn't!), who you'd recommend it to, and why it stood out to you.

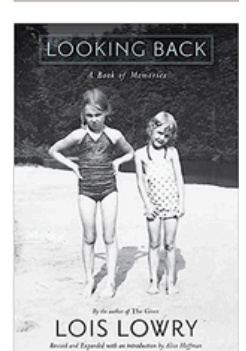
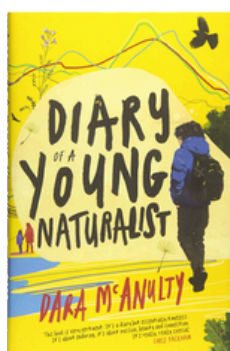
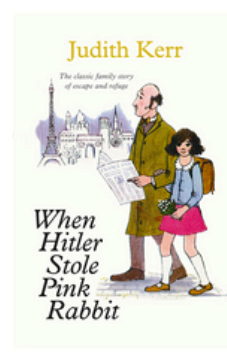
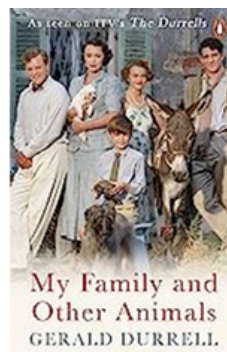
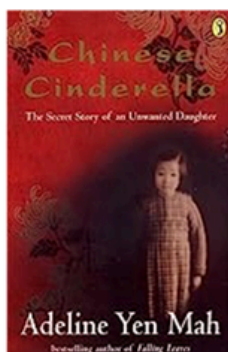
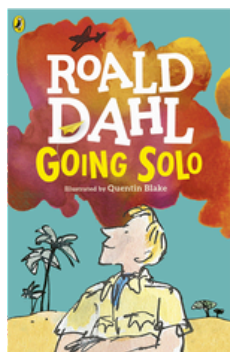
Prizes:

- The best review will be published in the next edition of Settlebeck Reads Newsletter.
- The winner will also receive a gift voucher for Westwood Books!

Submission Details:

- Email your review to Dr Hunter at: hunterj@ss.changinglives.education
- Deadline: 31st January

KS3 Recommended Reads (Available from Mrs Astbury-Smith)



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At Settlebeck School, you'll have five tutor reading sessions every fortnight as part of our Reading for Pleasure programme. These sessions are all about getting you excited about reading while helping you improve your literacy skills. Reading regularly not only helps you get better at reading, but it also introduces you to new words, making it easier to understand and talk about things in all your subjects. By making reading a part of your routine, we want to help you build the skills and confidence you need to do well in school and keep learning for years to come!

This term we have been reading

Year 7	Cirque du Freak	D Shan	
Year 8	Refugee Boy	B Zephaniah	
Year 9	Maze Runner	J Dasher	
Year 10	Hunger Games	S Hill	

Reading at Home

Building good reading habits at home is a great way to boost your confidence and literacy skills. Here are some easy tips to help you get started:

Create a Routine: Set aside 15–20 minutes each day for reading. It'll soon become a natural part of your day.

Choose What You Enjoy: Pick books that interest you—whether it's fiction, non-fiction, or graphic novels. The more fun it is, the more you'll want to read!

Talk About What You're Reading: Share what you're reading with friends or family. Talking about books can spark new ideas and help you understand the stories better.

Read with Someone: Reading a book with a friend or family member can make it more enjoyable. You can chat about your favorite parts or discuss what happens next!

Try Audiobooks: If you're on the go or want a change, audiobooks are a fun way to enjoy stories during car trips or while relaxing.

By making reading a regular habit, you'll not only improve your skills but also discover how fun and exciting books can be!

'Books train your imagination to think big.' – Taylor Swift