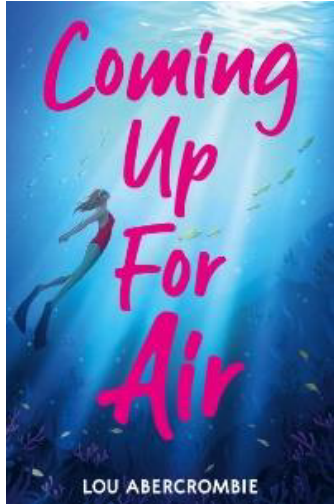


# LWC 2023 Recommended Reads

## 2nd Form



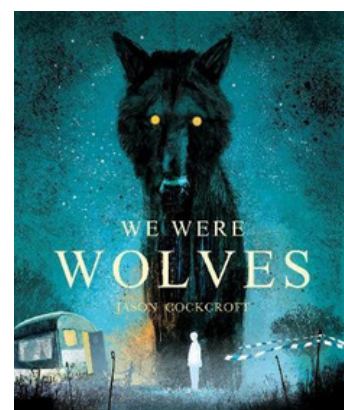
### Coming Up For Air by Lou Abercrombie

Coco and her erratic mother are forced to move back to her mother's childhood home by the seaside. But tensions run high as Coco discovers that the locals do not care for her family and the reasons why. Upbeat and positive as ever though, Coco determinedly perseveres to make friends, break down old stereotypes and heal historic wounds.



### When I see Blue - Lily Bailey

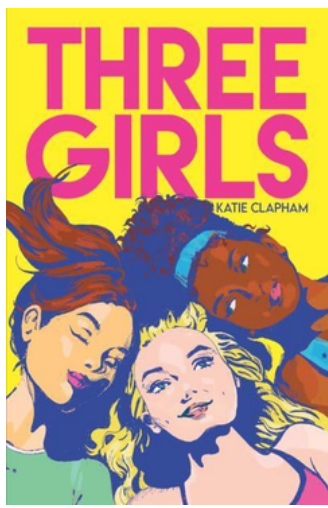
Benny's family has moved to London to start again. His dad will be around more, his mum will not drink as much, and his brother will stop being a moody teenager. In Benny's mind though, this will only happen if he listens to The Thoughts; avoid certain colours and always count in fours. These compulsive acts have always made him an outcast, but when his best friend April needs him, he must fight against his OCD behaviours and take control.



### We Were Wolves - Jason Cockcroft

In this emotional read, a boy recollects the incident that changes his life. When his father, John, returned from war he was different. Feeling responsible for him, the boy moves in with John into a derelict caravan at the edge of a farm and together. All is not well though, as John is involved in criminal activities and the boy struggles to understand the world and connect to those around him.





## Three Girls by Katie Clapham

Three very different girls are unexpectedly drawn together over an unlikely shared interest. A really positive story that sees the girls questioning the cliques, pressures, and prejudices of teen school life and discovering the importance – and the fun – of genuine friendship.



## Stitched Up by Steve Cole

This hard-hitting story conveys the harsh reality of child labourers in sweatshops in Vietnam. Hanh tells her own story, of her desire to learn, and of the beauty of her home life which contrasts vividly with the conditions in the sweatshop and the work she and her co-workers must do to fulfil western fashion fads. A thought provoking, dyslexia friendly, read with supporting information in the back of the book.



## Fight Back by A M Dassu

After a terrorist attack at a concert, racial tensions are on the rise and Aaliyah is feeling the hate. Rather than allowing herself to feel isolated, she stands up for her Islamic beliefs and wears her Hijab proudly. She finds that her community is not alone and is soon joined by other young people who have felt discriminated against and together they fight back. An empowering read.



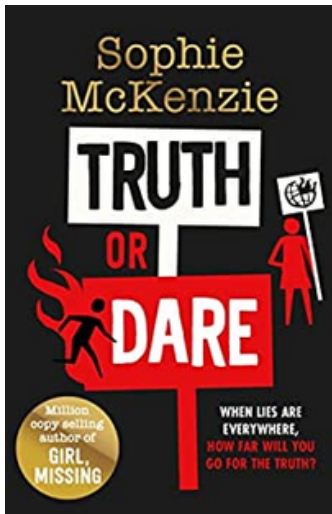
## The Boy Behind the Wall - Maximillian Jones

Harry, the son of a diplomat living in the American sector of West Berlin, witnesses a boy being shot as he tries to escape over the wall from the East. Jakob lives in the East, adopted by a Stasi officer. The boys become pen-pals and bond over their love of music. Together, they begin to devise a plan to help Jakob escape to the West and find his family.



## Needle - Patrice Lawrence

Charlene's mum has died and she is separated from her much-loved younger sister. Charlene's foster carer nurtures her talent for knitting and she plans to create a gift for her sister in the hope of repairing their relationship. When her foster carer's son destroys her project, Charlene snaps and stabs him in the hand with her knitting needle. Charlene's emotions and her experiences of the care system and the juvenile criminal justice system result in a powerful short novel.



## Truth or Dare - Sophie McKenzie

Maya is sent to stay with her grandparents in Cornwall for the summer. She befriends a family trying to live peacefully 'off grid' and discovers that her grandmother's factory is polluting the local environment. As tensions escalate between the two groups, and beset with divided loyalties, Maya is drawn into an increasingly difficult and dangerous situation.



## The Bone Spindle - Leslie Vedder

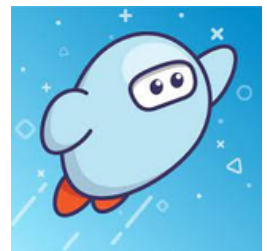
A learned treasure hunter and a swashbuckling huntswoman are thrown together on a quest to wake a sleeping prince, break a centuries old curse and restore a kingdom. A fantastical mix of adventure, magic, and LGBTQ+ romance that takes the story of Sleeping Beauty as its starting point.



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