

All That Glitters...

All that glitters may not be gold but in the case of Olympic medals it is the genuine article - and what a hoard we've gathered in Beijing: gold, silver and bronze!

Gold, of course is the **real** big deal, the best, top quality, - although silver comes a close second. Then there's Bronze, definitely worth having if we're talking about medals, but not much of a find when you're looking for buried treasure. We've been digging for gold (and silver) in the library and found some little nuggets.

THE CROCK OF GOLD (15616) by James Stephens (KS4) is a humorous fantasy in which leprechauns wreak revenge on the villagers when they find that their gold has been stolen. Villagers are also in trouble in **THE GHOST OF GRANIA O'MALLEY** (15916) by Michael Morpurgo (KS1/2). They want to cut off the top of the Big Hill to get at the gold inside; but not if Jake and Jess and the ghost of the pirate queen have anything to do with it. And the Swallows and Amazons are hunting for a lost gold mine in the Lake District in **PIGEON POST** (15757) by Arthur Ransome (KS1/2). The true story of the discovery of a hoard of Roman silver by a Suffolk ploughman is retold by Roald Dahl in **THE MILDENHALL TREASURE** (16141, KS2). Gordon Butcher was tricked into handing over the find and lost his right to receive the value of it under the ancient laws of treasure trove (that must be as bad as losing your winning lottery ticket!). Talking of tickets what about finding one of the Golden Tickets and winning a tour around Willy Wonka's chocolate factory – every chocaholic's dreammmmm... **CHARLIE AND THE**

CHOCOLATE FACTORY by Roald Dahl (16069, KS2 – Cassette only).

Ancient gold jewellery has a powerful effect on later events in the next two stories. In the **PEACE WEAVERS** (16573) by Julia Jarman (KS3/4) a golden brooch, stolen from a sixth century woman, influences Hilde's feelings about the protests against the Iraq war. A golden Celtic torc, or necklace, brings good and bad fortune to Sean and Annie when they leave famine-stricken Ireland to search for their father in America (**TWIST OF GOLD** 16606 by Michael Morpurgo, KS2/3).

In **THE SILVER SPOON OF SOLOMON SNOW** (16454, KS2) the main character is in search of the silver spoon that was left with him when he was abandoned as a baby, but later pawned by Pa. In **THE SILVER SWORD** by Ian Serraillier (15125, KS2/3) it's a small silver letter opener in the shape of a sword that provides a symbol of hope for three children as they travel through war-torn Europe in a search for their parents. Meanwhile tweenage tearaway Trixie Tempest is looking for a silver cup that her dad won years ago when he was a pupil at Conundrums Academy in **TRIXIE TEMPEST AND THE WITCHES' ACADEMY** (16537, KS2).

A super-race of golden cats, called the Miw, features in **THE CATS OF SEROSTER** (15508, KS2/3) by Robert Westall - a mediaeval fantasy set in France. Descended from the sacred cats of Egypt, these fantastic felines aid the humans in a battle against the forces of evil.

Here are some more gleaming good reads:-

16008 A HANDFUL OF GOLD By Joan Aitken

A fantastic collection of short stories to enjoy.

Key stage 2

16041 MILLY'S GOLDEN GOAL By Harriet Castor

Bestonerff FC are in trouble and need money, but when their Golden Goal trophy is stolen, football fan Milly has a plan.

Key stage 1 & 2

16543 THE KING IN BLOOD RED AND GOLD

By Terry Deary

Will Marsden and his grandfather ride north to Scotland to help a mysterious stranger. Meg, the serving girl, steps in as they are led into danger, in this thrilling Tudor adventure.

Key stage 2

16155 A SUDDEN GLOW OF GOLD By Anne Fine

Sent to tidy his room, Toby finds a brass lamp. When he cleans it out pops Hasan, a genie, who whisks Toby off on his magic carpet.

Key stage 2

15782 DRAGONQUEST By Anne McCaffrey

The bold dragon riders take to the air once more to destroy the deadly silver threads. Book 2 of The Dragonriders of Pern, sequel to 'Dragonflight' (4538).

Key stage 3 & 4

15669 THE SILVER CHAIR By C. S. Lewis

The search for a lost prince takes two children out of Narnia to the ruined city of the ancient giants. Book 6 of THE NARNIA SERIES, sequel to 'The Voyage of the Dawntrader' (3531).

Key stage 2 & 3

16318 THE SILVER SWAN By Michael Morpurgo

One moonlit night a boy sees a swan arrive on a lake near his home. After befriending her he watches through the seasons as she finds a mate and starts a family.

Key stage 2

16560 GOLDKEEPER By Sally Prue

Everyone is surprised when Sebastian is chosen as the High Priest's apprentice at the Temple of Ora, because Sebastian is a bit of a rebel. But although his new life is fun, someone is out to get him. For Sebastian and his pet rat, Gerald, it's time for action as they try and foil the most powerful mob in the city.

Key stage 3

15558 JUNGLE SILVER By H. E. Todd

King Lionel, the lion, calls upon his friends to help him reach a silver ball, with disastrous results!

Key stage 1

15535 GOLDENGROVE By Jill Paton Walsh

Madge and Paul find their lives are about to change when they spend the summer at their grandmother's house in Cornwall.

Key stage 3

16714 TANGLEWRECK By Jeanette Winterson

Time is going wrong - moving too fast or too slowly - and the world is in trouble. Silver needs to trace the timekeeper of legend. When Regalia and Abel join the search Silver realises that she is up against two nasty adversaries, as well as time itself, in the race to save the world.

Key stage 3

16541 SILVERFIN By Charlie Higson

The young James Bond's first adventure takes place at the Highland home of his aunt and uncle; a local laird is carrying out horrific experiments in his castle and has to be stopped. Along the way James tackles some killer eels!

Key stages 2 & 3

Denise James