



IAN RAMSEY CE ACADEMY

Together to learn, to grow, to serve

Reading Newsletter



Welcome

Welcome to our April edition of the Reading Newsletter! I hope you enjoyed our last edition. This month's is packed with even more reading-related information. I hope you enjoy what is included, but if there is anything you want to see that isn't here yet, why not drop the Academy and email and let me know what you would like to be included?

This newsletter is a chance to find out about:

- fiction
- non-fiction
- poetry
- authors and their work
- Vocabulary
- how to help your child with their reading journey
- what's new in reading
- local libraries
- and much more...

So, sit back, grab a cuppa and enjoy our Reading Newsletter.

As always, your support is hugely appreciated,

Mrs Chapman-Jones



Author spotlight

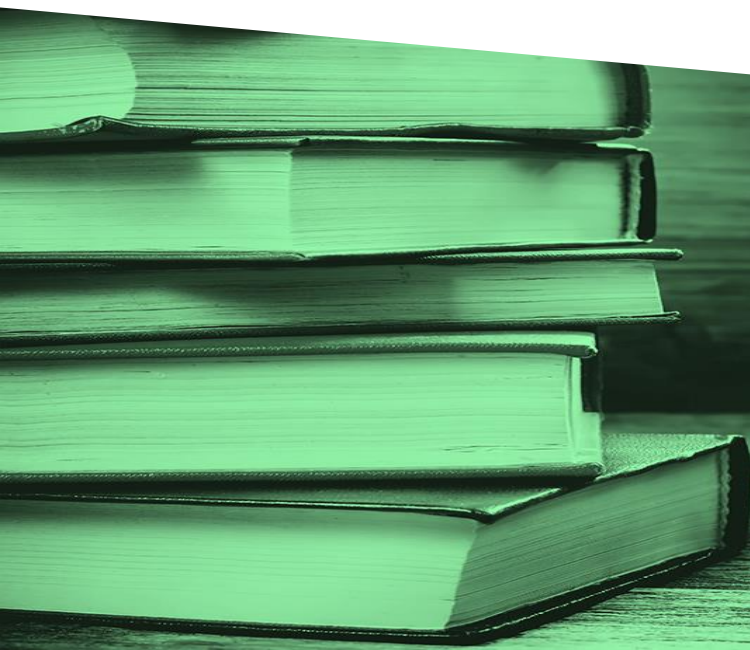
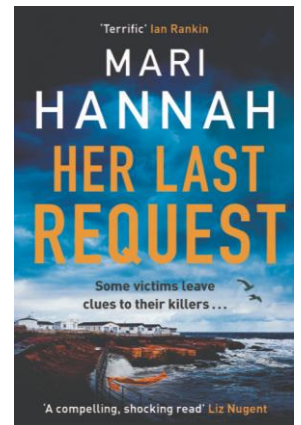
This month's author: Mari Hannah

Mari Hannah is a multi-award-winning author whose authentic voice is no happy accident.

A former probation officer, she lives in rural Northumberland with her partner, an ex-murder detective. Mari turned to script-writing when her career was cut short following an assault on duty.

Her debut, *The Murder Wall* (adapted from a script she developed with the BBC), won her the Polari First Book Prize. Its follow-up, *Settled Blood*, picked up a Northern Writers' award.

Her Kate Daniels series is in development with Stephen Fry's production company, Sprout Pictures. Mari's body of work won her the CWA Dagger in the Library 2017, an incredible honour to receive so early on in her career. In 2019, she was Chair for Theakston Old Peculier Crime Writing Festival and was awarded the Diva Wordsmith of the Year.



Author to academy



Hello Ian Ramsey CE Academy,

I wish I was meeting you in person to talk about what reading means to me and why it should matter to everyone. First, I have a confession to make. As a child, I didn't enjoy English at school. Please don't tell Mrs Chapman-Jones. I might get detention! No, the reason I didn't like it was that I lacked the confidence to read aloud. Maths was my thing . . . and anything I could do in a school gymnasium. After I left school and got a job, two things happened: I met readers who wanted to share their love of books, telling me about their favourite authors. With nothing to contribute, I began to regret not paying more attention to language and how important storytelling is to all of us. You see, reading for pleasure isn't about sitting in a classroom analysing text, though that is important if you want to pass exams. For me, it's an escape from reality. I've learned so much about the world around me from books.

As a professional crime writer, it's my job to create thrillers that entertain and educate. It's like when you go to the movies, except in a book you draw the pictures in your own head, hopefully with your imagination in overdrive if I've done my job properly.

Reading and writing has opened up a world that I never thought possible. My job allows me to travel to faraway destinations. A few years ago, I was asked to take part in Mexico's first ever crime festival – now that was an education! Remember the girl that was too shy to read at school? Well, in Mexico, I had an audience of hundreds. Who knew I had it in me? I suppose my point is that reading gave me the skill to write, which had a knock-on effect – the confidence to share my work with others.

The only thing I like more than writing is entering a world that someone else has created, getting to know the characters, good and bad. And, if it's a crime novel, trying to guess whodunnit. When I'm engrossed in a well-told story, I can think of nothing else, because I'm immersed in that world until I reach the very last page, hopefully when chaos is replaced by order, the baddie gets his or her just deserts and I can breathe again.



Author to academy



The good news is this form of entertainment doesn't cost a bean if you use a library. In the ten years that I've been published, I've learned to hook my readers into stories where they feel part of murder investigations, as if they are happening in real time around them. My partner is an ex-murder detective, so I know a thing or two about how that works. For me, putting the puzzle together is what I love, keeping up the pace and tension, turning the screw as I reach the conclusion and creating a thrilling finale.

So, if any of you have aspirations to write professionally, reading the competition is the way to go. There's a world of amazing stories out there. I hope my letter has encouraged you to seek them out.

Happy reading everyone.

Mari Hannah

Website: www.marihannah.com

Twitter: @mariwriter



From page to screen

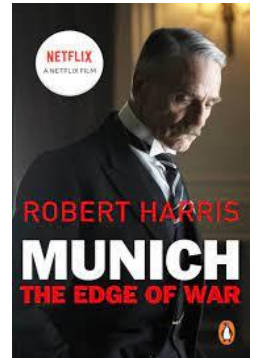


This month's From Page to Screen is Robert Harris's *Munich*.

September 1938. Hitler is determined to start a war. Chamberlain is desperate to preserve the peace. The issue is to be decided in a city that will forever afterwards be notorious for what takes place there: Munich.

As Chamberlain's plane judders over the Channel and the Fuhrer's train steams relentlessly south from Berlin, two young men travel with secrets of their own. Hugh Legat is one of Chamberlain's private secretaries; Paul Hartmann a German diplomat and member of the anti-Hitler resistance. Great friends at Oxford before Hitler came to power, they haven't seen one another since they were last in Munich six years earlier.

Now, as the future of Europe hangs in the balance, their paths are destined to cross again. When the stakes are this high, who are you willing to betray? Your friends, your family, your country or your conscience?





After following over 17,000 people in England, Scotland and Wales over 50 years, researchers at Edinburgh University proved that reading well at age seven was linked to better socio-economic status even 35 years on.

Studies have shown that when we are exposed to a greater range of diverse perspectives and motivations, it increases our emotional intelligence.

Equally, reading books strengthens analytical and critical skills, allowing people to form opinions and back them up with evidence.

A report from Scholastic suggests that reading out loud to kids throughout elementary school years inspires them to become frequent readers: 40% of frequent readers ages 6 - 10 were read out loud to at home.



2022 Reading Challenge

- A book with more than 500 pages
- A classic romance
- A book that became a movie
- A book published this year
- A book with a number in the title
- A book written by someone under 30
- A book with nonhuman characters
- A funny book
- A book by a female author
- A mystery or thriller
- A book with a one-word title
- A book of short stories
- A book set in a different country
- A nonfiction book
- A popular author's first book
- A book from an author you love that you haven't read yet
- A book a friend recommended
- A Pulitzer Prize-winning book
- A book based on a true story
- A book at the bottom of your to-read list
- A book your mom loves
- A book that scares you
- A book more than 100 years old
- A book based entirely on its cover
- A book you were supposed to read in school but didn't
- A memoir
- A book you can finish in a day
- A book with antonyms in the title
- A book set somewhere you've always wanted to visit
- A book that came out the year you were born
- A book with bad reviews
- A trilogy
- A book from your childhood
- A book with a love triangle
- A book set in the future
- A book set in high school
- A book with a color in the title
- A book that made you cry
- A book with magic
- A graphic novel
- A book by an author you've never read before
- A book you own but have never read
- A book that takes place in your hometown
- A book that was originally written in a different language
- A book set during Christmas
- A book written by an author with your same initials
- A play
- A banned book
- A book based on or turned into a TV show
- A book you started but never finished

What's new?

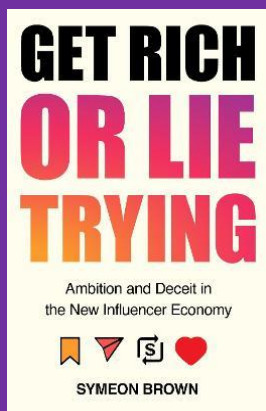
Non-fiction

Get Rich or Lie Trying
by Symeon Brown

A timely analysis of the phenomenon of the influencer in contemporary society. Reading between the lines of aspiration, social media, contemporary

digital economies, and much more, Channel 4 News

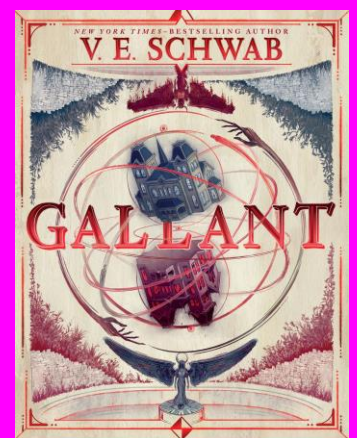
reporter Symeon Brown tries to comprehend an intriguing aspect of the tangled web of online life.



Fiction

Gallant by V.E.Schwab

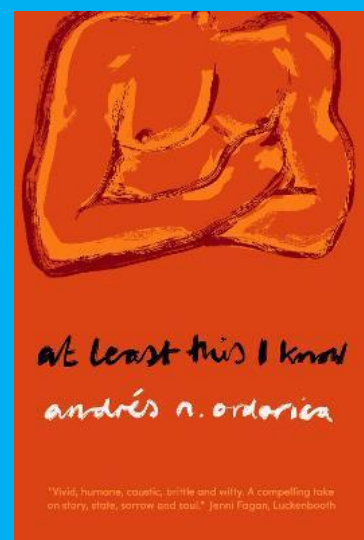
Everything casts a shadow. Even the world we live in. And as with every shadow, there is a place where it must touch. A seam, where the shadow meets its source.



Poetry

At Least This I Know by Andres N. Orderica

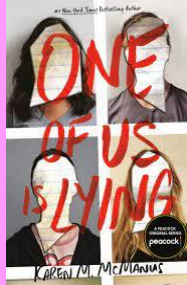
A bold debut from Andrés N. Orderica. *At Least This I Know* is a poetry collection that explores one's sense of belonging through diaspora, queer identity, loss, love, and so much more. Piercing, sincere and unapologetic.



Student Recommendation

Year 7 recommendation:
One Of Us Is Lying by Karen M. McManus

Pay close attention and you might solve this. On Monday afternoon, five students at Bayview High walk into detention. Only Simon never leaves.



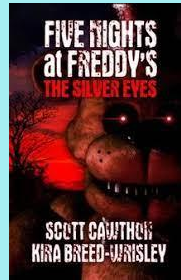
Year 8 recommendation:
Midnight Unicorn by Alice Hemming

In a faraway kingdom, two girls live separate lives. The girls could not be more different... and yet something draws them together.



Year 9 recommendation:
The Silver Eyes by Scott Cawthorn

It's been exactly ten years since the murders at Freddy Fazbear's Pizza, and Charlotte, who goes by the name Charlie, has spent the last ten years trying to forget.



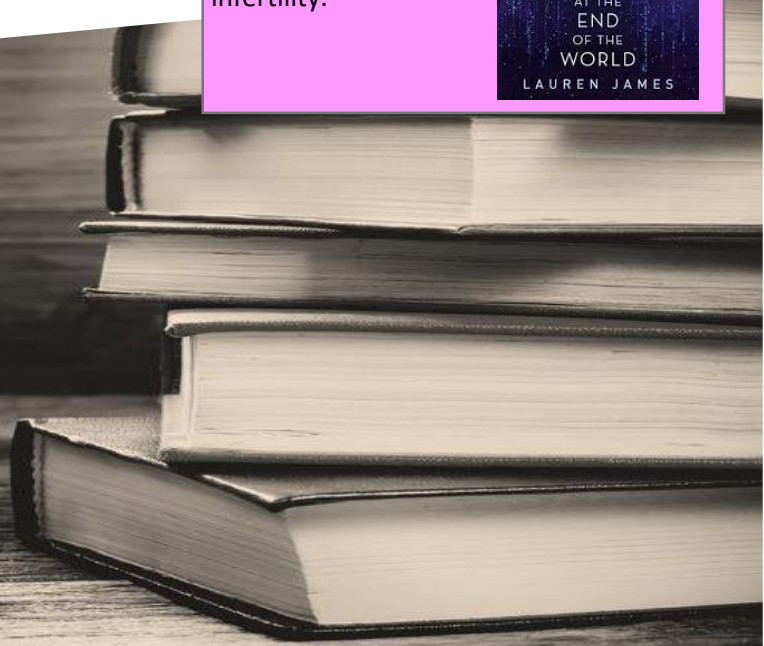
Year 10 recommendation:
The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

The Capitol is harsh and cruel and keeps the districts in line by forcing them all to send one boy and one girl to participate in the annual Hunger Games, a fight to the death on live TV.



Year 11 recommendation:
The Quiet at the End of the World by Lauren James

Lowrie and Shen are the youngest people on the planet after a virus caused global infertility.



Local Libraries

HathiTrust

For those of you that can't visit an actual library, HathiTrust.Org offers a range of online library services!

HathiTrust is a partnership of over **100 libraries** and research institutions that have come together to build and share a digital repository of print works.

You can browse a range of books, fiction and non-fiction ...
FOR FREE!



First liners



Can you guess the title of the book from the first line?

1. The story so far: in the beginning, the universe was created. This has made a lot of people very angry and been widely regarded as a bad move.

2. The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there.

3. It was the day my grandmother exploded.

4. It is universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife.

5. As Gregor Samsa awoke one morning from uneasy dreams he found himself transformed in his bed into a monstrous vermin.

6. In a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit.

7. Once upon a time, there was a woman who discovered she had turned into the wrong person.

8. You better not never tell nobody but God.

9. This is a tale of a meeting of two lonesome, skinny, fairly old white men on a planet which was dying fast.



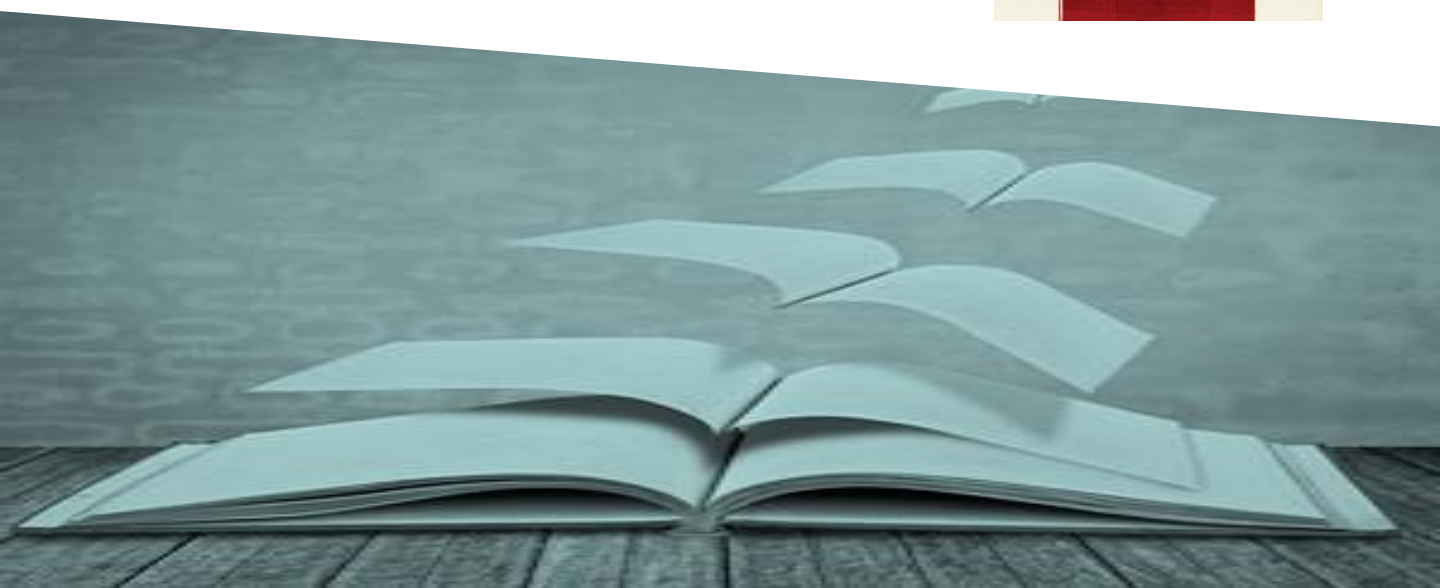
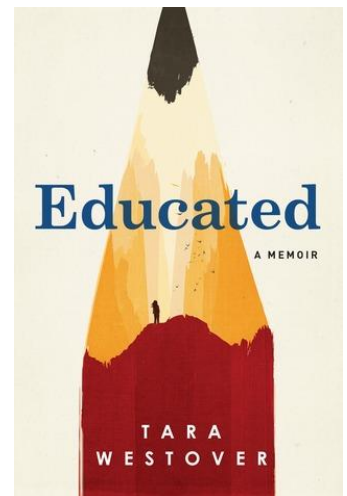
A Good REad

Mrs Craven has begun a new book club for pupils. Unfortunately, numbers are limited, but she would like to recommend an RE linked book to all parents and pupils each month, supporting our whole school Christian Ethos. This month's recommendation is:

Educated **by Tara Westover**

Tara Westover was 17 the first time she set foot in a classroom. Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, she prepared for the end of the world by stockpiling home-canned peaches and sleeping with her "head-for-the-hills bag". In the summer she stewed herbs for her mother, a midwife and healer, and in the winter she salvaged in her father's junkyard.

Educated is an account of the struggle for self-invention. It is a tale of fierce family loyalty and of the grief that comes with severing the closest of ties. With the acute insight that distinguishes all great writers, Westover has crafted a universal coming-of-age story that gets to the heart of what an education is and what it offers: the perspective to see one's life through new eyes and the will to change it.



Word of the Month

Shambles

(Origin: Latin)

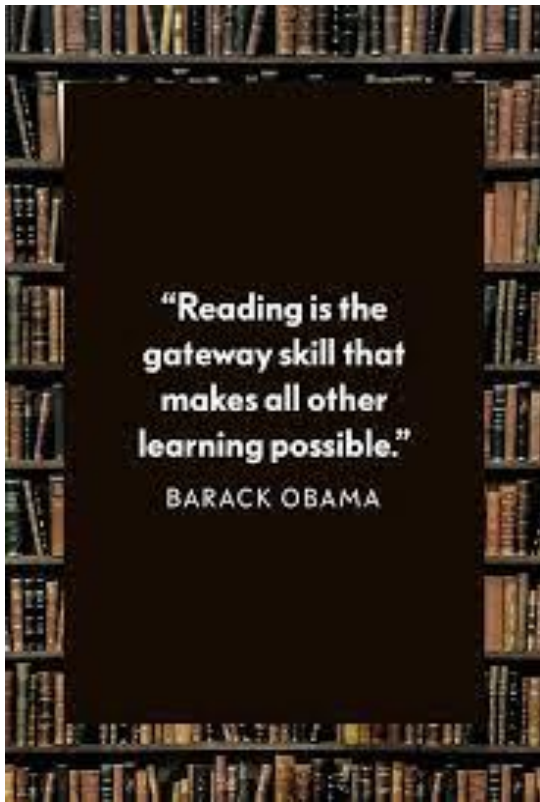
The origin of the word “shambles” is a real mess. Which is ironic, because a shambles literally means “a real mess”. It’s not uncommon to hear English speakers complaining that their “life is a shambles!”

The term is said to have derived from the Latin term “scamillus”, meaning a small stool (like a chair). But at the same time that the term ‘scamillus’ was being used, the word “shambles”, in the form we have it today, was also being used to refer to a stool. We don’t really know why the two terms were being used but at some point the meaning of a ‘scamillus’ became more specific to distinguish it from the other; it referred only to a stool upon which something is sold.



Final Notes

Reading is so important to our Academy. The key aim of our reading drive is to encourage Reading for Pleasure. I leave you with the words of Barack Obama:



I hope you've enjoyed reading this month's newsletter. As an Academy, we believe you should never be stuck for reading information and recommendations - visit our dedicated reading section on our website for ideas, competitions recommended lists and more. Click on 'Curriculum' and 'Reading' (or click on this link: <https://ianramsey.org.uk/curriculum/reading/>) to uncover a world of books and recommendations and challenges including:

- Book recommendations. These change every term and are thematically linked to all the topics covered by each subject that term.
- Reading challenges
- Desert Island Book lists
- Reading quotes
- Recommend a book

I hope you've enjoyed February's newsletter and look forward to sending you May's edition!

*Answers to First Lines:

1. The Restaurant at the End of the Universe by Douglas Adams
2. The Go-Between by L.P. Hartley
3. The Crow Road by Iain Banks
4. Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austin
5. The Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka
6. The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien
7. Back When We Were GrownUps by Anne Taylor
8. The Colour Purple by Alice Walker
9. Breakfast of Champions by Kurt Vonnegut

