



IAN RAMSEY CE ACADEMY

Together to learn, to grow, to serve

Reading Newsletter



this MONTH in history

1	1986: Harriet Beecher Stowe dies.	2	1778: Jean-Jacques Rousseau dies.	3	1937: Tom Stoppard is born.	4	1804: Nathaniel Hawthorne is born.	5	1991: Howard Nemerov dies.	6	1937: Bessie Head is born.	7	1816: Richard Brinsley Sheridan dies.
8	2014: <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> is released as an e-book for the first time.	9	1936: June Jordan is born.	10	1931: Alice Munro is born.	11	1952: Robert R. McCammon is born.	12	1904: Pablo Neruda is born.	13	1934: Wole Soyinka is born.	14	1903: Irving Stone is born.
15	1919: Iris Murdoch is born.	16	1985: Heinrich Boell dies.	17	1902: Christina Stead is born.	18	1918: Nelson Mandela is born.	19	1908: Ernest Buckler is born.	20	1933: Cormac McCarthy is born.	21	1796: Robert Burns dies.
22	1990: Manuel Puig dies.	23	1888: Raymond Chandler is born.	24	1991: Isaac Bashevis Singer dies.	25	1834: Samuel Taylor Coleridge dies.	26	1939: Ford Madox Ford dies.	27	1916: Elizabeth Hardwick is born.	28	1866: Beatrix Potter is born.
29	1905: Stanley Kunitz is born.	30	1818: Emily Brontë is born.	31	1965: J. K. Rowling is born.								

J U L Y

Welcome

Welcome to our July 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:
Cara A'Court



This month, we're shining the spotlight on the wonderful Cara A'Court.

Cara lives in Northumberland with her wife and menagerie of animals. She is currently working towards her English Literature Degree with The Open University and is also the owner of her own business Earth Soul. Fun fact: she was taught English by our very own Mr. Patrick! Cara was inspired to write *Three People, Three Countries, One Path* when she turned to spiritual practices.



Author to academy

Hi All,

My name is Cara and I appreciate the opportunity to write to you. When Mr Patrick, my favourite and best ex-teacher asked me to do this how could I say no? (Yes, he told me to say that). Don't tell him but he did start my 'grown up' interest in English Literature.

I have just published my first novel, *Three People, Three Countries, One Path*. At its heart it is about overcoming adversity and knowing that you are ultimately destined for more. Something that I am passionate about as a North-East author, a person with a disability and a member of the LGBTQ+ community. Reading and writing have helped open up a world of possibilities for me, so explore these as much as you can.

I started writing for my mental health, getting all my random thoughts onto a page whether in prose or poetry helped clear my mind. From this I began to explore writing for pleasure and here I am a published author, me?!

My top tips would be at the core of what you write let it be about what you know or what matters to you, get your voice heard because it matters. Secondly, I start every morning free writing just whatever comes to mind, from there, ideas flourish and so can you.

Remember to take chances, look for opportunities and strive for your dreams.

You deserve to be heard!

Cara A'court



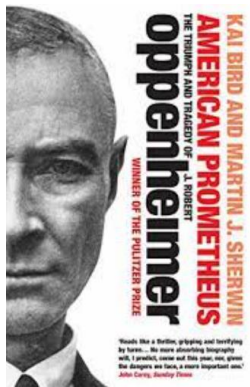
From page to screen



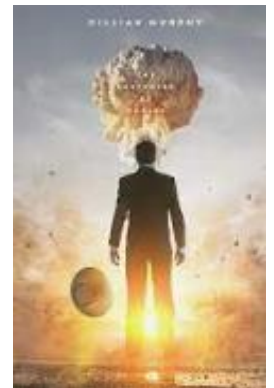
This month, our page to screen feature is *Oppenheimer*, a biographical thriller about the father of the atomic bomb.

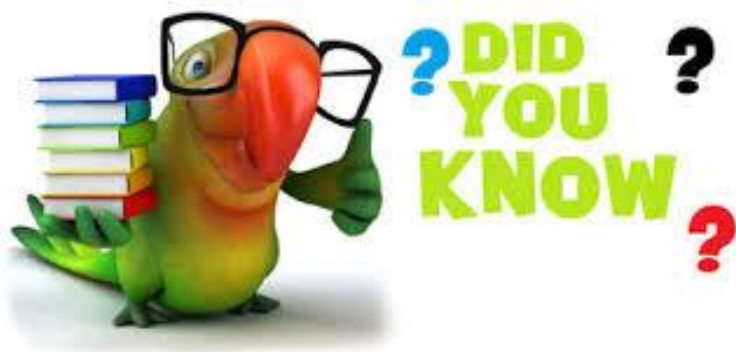


Based on Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin's biography, *American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer*, the film tells the story of one man's journey from theoretical physicist, to the developer of one of the world's deadliest weapons.



Starring the likes of Cillian Murphy, Gary Oldman and Rami Malek, this is one of the summer's must-see productions.





Reading makes you an overall better person. One of the most interesting facts about reading books is how much it can change a person. Reading is not only a great hobby, but also an amazing self-development tool. Making a habit out of leafing through a book every now and then can make you a much better person.

Having books in the home is associated with both reading enjoyment and confidence. Of children who report having fewer than 10 books in their homes, 42% say they do not like reading and only 32% say they are 'very confident' readers. For children who report having over 200 books at home, only 12% say they do not like reading and 73% consider themselves 'very confident' readers.

Adults with lower levels of literacy are more likely to believe that they have little impact on political processes and are less likely to participate in volunteer activities.

Simply owning books can change our children's lives. Children who have a library with at least 20 books of their own have been found to achieve up to 3 more years of schooling than kids who don't have reading material at home.



2023 Reading Challenge

The 52 Book Club's

2023

READING CHALLENGE

1. A BOOK WITH A SUBTITLE
2. FEATURING AN INHERITANCE
3. TITLE STARTING WITH THE LETTER "G"
4. TITLE STARTING WITH THE LETTER "H"
5. TITLE STARTING WITH THE LETTER "I"
6. UNDER 200 PAGES
7. A CITY OR COUNTRY NAME IN THE TITLE
8. DYSTOPIAN FICTION
9. A BOOK WITH A DEDICATION
10. TAKES PLACE DURING THE ROARING TWENTIES
11. A BOOK ABOUT SECRETS
12. HIGH FANTASY
13. PUBLISHED POSTHUMOUSLY
14. A SURVIVAL STORY
15. SET IN AUSTRALIA
16. FEATURING ONE OF THE "SEVEN DEADLY SINS"
17. BY A CARIBBEAN AUTHOR
18. SET DURING A WAR OTHER THAN WWI OR WWII
19. TYPOGRAPHIC COVER
20. A BOOK ABOUT SIBLINGS
21. A SECOND-HAND BOOK
22. A BODY-POSITIVE MESSAGE
23. AN ALLITERATIVE TITLE
24. NORDIC NOIR
25. A FASHIONABLE CHARACTER
26. HAS AN EPILOGUE
27. NEWBERY MEDAL WINNER
28. INCLUDES A FUNERAL
29. SENDS YOU DOWN A RABBIT HOLE
30. AN AUTHOR WITH A SAME NAME AS YOU
31. SET IN A WORKPLACE
32. PUBLISHED BY MACMILLAN
33. A BANNED BOOK
34. FEATURING MYTHOLOGY
35. A BOOK YOU MEANT TO READ LAST YEAR
36. CHAPTERS HAVE CLIFFHANGERS
37. WRITTEN IN PRESENT TENSE
38. AN ENEMIES-TO-LOVERS PLOT
39. THE FINAL BOOK IN A SERIES
40. WRITTEN BY A COMEDIAN
41. A CHARACTER WHO IS A REFUGEE
42. TIME IN THE TITLE
43. A BOOK "EVERYONE" HAS READ
44. A CONTEMPORARY SETTING
45. FIRST WORD IN THE BOOK IS "THE"
46. SCRIPT FONT ON THE SPINE
47. SET IN THE CITY OF DUBLIN
48. A BOOK BY OCTAVIA E. BUTLER
49. BOOKS ON THE COVER
50. RELATED TO THE WORD "MURDER"
51. DOESN'T FIT ANY OF THE OTHER 51 PROMPTS
52. PUBLISHED IN 2023

READ
MORE
BOOKS!

The
52
Book
Club

www.the52bookclub.com



July Reading Challenge

My Reading Challenge July Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01 A summer read	02 A book about nature	03 A story about a far-away land	04 Made into a movie	05 A romance	06 A book about perseverance	07 A banned book
08 About a superhero	09 Recommended by a friend	10 A gifted book	11 A new release	12 An old favourite	13 About a famous artist	14 A true story
15 About mental health	16 Recommended by someone at home	17 A book at the top of your 'to read' pile	18 A local story	19 A comic book	20 About World War II	21 A book under 500 pages
22 A book about somebody inspirational	23 Set in fictional town	24 a book about a place	25 A book from your local library	26 A lesser known book	27 Set in the Victorian era	28 About healthy eating
29 A poem.	30 A fantasy novel	31 Recommended by friends				



• Most Favorite List:

.....

.....

.....

• Mediocre List:

.....

.....

.....

• Less Favorite List:

.....

.....

.....

Notes:

.....

.....

.....



Bishop of Durham Reading Award

The Bishop of Durham Award is exclusive to pupils at Ian Ramsey CE Academy.

This award is named after the Bishop of Durham, The Right Reverend Paul Butler. He has always believed that reading is a hugely important skill for everyone. He said, '*I love reading and encourage others to do so*'.

There are three main levels to the award: Bronze, Silver and Gold. Each level has a series of reading tasks to complete with badges and certificates awarded along the way.

Each task must be signed off by a teacher or adult. Once a level has been completed, you can start the next level.

Awards will be given at the end of each year.



Bishop of Durham Reading Award

Bronze Award:	Silver Award:	Gold Award:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read a fiction text • Read a non-fiction text • Listen to an audio book • Review a book that has been made into a film • Read the reading in at least one worship each term 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read one non-fiction text and one poetry anthology • Read two fiction texts • Complete 50% of the Reading Passport • Prepare and read the reading and prayer in worship once a term • Listen to an audio book and read the book at the same time • Enter readathon and raise money for charity by reading • Read to someone within your family regularly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a Y7 reading for pleasure scheme for a book of your choice • Create an audio book to send to a local care home for residents to listen to • Write the script for and deliver a worship • Organise a readathon for Y7 • Take part in the Ian Ramsey CE Academy Peer Readers scheme
<p>Bronze House Certificate</p> <p>+ 50 Positive Points</p>	<p>Silver House Certificate</p> <p>+ 100 Positive Points</p>	<p>Gold House Certificate</p> <p>+ 250 Positive Points</p>

What's new?

Non-fiction:

***Strong* by Ashley Cain**

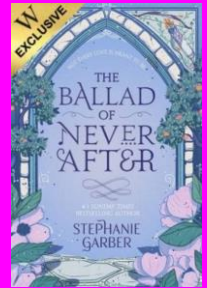
The campaigner and endurance athlete chronicles in moving prose how he has found the strength, resilience and positive mindset to continue after his daughter's tragic death from leukaemia.



Fiction

***The Ballad of Never After* by Stephanie Garber**

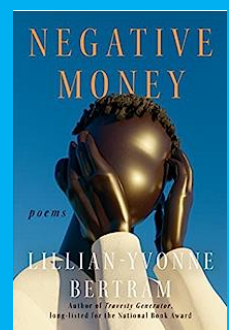
The Ballad of Never After is the fiercely-anticipated sequel to the #1 *New York Times* bestseller *Once Upon a Broken Heart*, starring Evangeline Fox and the Prince of Hearts on a new journey of magic, mystery, and heartbreak.



Poetry

***Negative Money* by Lillian-Yvonne Bertram**

From National Book Award-nominated Lillian-Yvonne Bertram comes *Negative Money*. This compelling new collection glides from acrostics to sonnets to maps to paint a picture of a life lived in the financial, emotional, and societal margins.



Pupil Recommendations



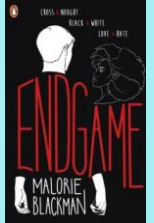
The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes by Suzanne Collins

Return to the world of *The Hunger Games* in a compelling prequel that both informs the original trilogy and stands alone as a powerful, breathlessly exciting science fiction thriller.



Endgame by Malorie Blackman

A breathtaking conclusion to Malorie's Blackman's groundbreaking *Noughts and Crosses* dystopia, *Endgame* absorbs the real-world issues of the previous few years to provide a blisteringly topical and exciting read.



Better Than the Movies by Lynn Painter

Determined to snare her dream date, Liz is forced to enlist the help of her obnoxious – if rather hot – next door neighbour in Painter's fun and feelgood romcom.



As Long As the Lemon Trees Grow by Zoulfa Katouh

A searing novel set in war-torn Syria, Katouh's deeply powerful work centres around Salama and her agonising decision as to whether to flee her native country or stay and help those in danger.



The Inheritance Games by Jennifer Lynn Barnes

A deliciously twisty addition to the YA thriller genre, Barnes' addictive mystery pits a girl who unexpectedly inherits a fortune against the deceased's enraged family members.



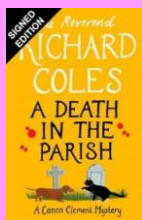
Staff Recommendations



A Death in the Parish by Reverend Richards Coles



An outrageous ritualistic killing breaks through the petty bickering and parish politics of Champton in the deliciously witty and page-turning sequel to the bestselling *Murder Before Evensong*.



The Sanctuary by Andrew Hunter Murray

The author of *The Last Day* delivers a disturbing vision of a dystopian Britain in this lean, intelligent thriller about a jilted lover venturing to the remote island his fiancée refuses to leave.



Deadly Fate by Angela Marsons

A gripping serial-killer thriller. This was brilliant and I would highly recommend it.



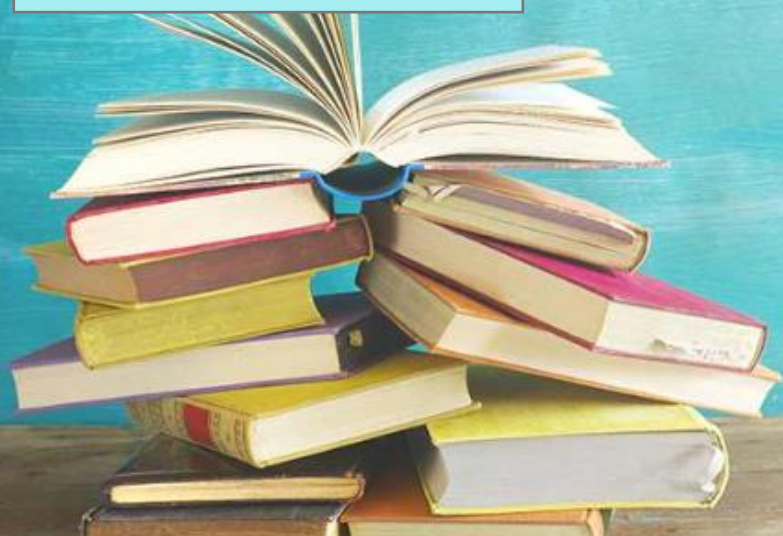
Alice by Christina Henry

Wonderfully creepy and quite disturbing in parts, this is a really dark retelling of 'Alice in Wonderland' in which Alice escapes from a mental asylum in order to discover the truth behind the reasons for her imprisonment there. All she can remember is a tea party that happened long ago, some long ears and lots of blood...



Before the Coffee Gets Cold by Toshikazu Kawaguchi

If you could relive one moment of your life, what would it be? In this series of short stories, the customers of a small café in Japan get to make their choices, allowing them opportunities for revenge, to grieve loved ones and to speak to family members who they never got the chance to meet. All they have to do is sit in one particular chair, not leave their seat and return to the present before their coffee gets cold...



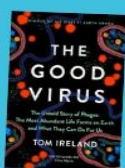
What are they reading?



SHELDON COOPER

The Good Virus by Tom Ireland

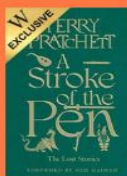
A perfect read for Cal Tech's top science guru. *The Good Virus* reveals how personalities, power and politics have repeatedly crashed together to hinder our understanding of these weird and wonderful life forms. Faced with the threat of antibiotic resistance, we need phages now more than ever. *The Good Virus* celebrates what phages could do for us and our planet if they are at last given the attention they deserve.



LEONARD HOFTSTADTER

A Stroke of the Pen by Terry Pratchett

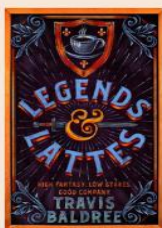
We all know Leonard loves a good fantasy novel. A final collection of mesmeric short stories from the much-missed author of the award-winning Discworld series, *A Stroke of the Pen* is filled with Pratchett's trademark invention, fantastical goings-on and irresistible humour.



RAJ KOOTHRAPPALI

Legends and Lattes by Travis Baldree

A mixture of two of Raj's favourite things—fantasy and cooking. Things get interesting very quickly, as a retired orc barbarian sets up a coffee shop in Baldree's wonderfully warmhearted slice of fantasy about fresh starts, ancient magic and excellent pastries.



HOWARD WOLOWITZ

Dungeons and Dragons Annual 2023 by Wizards of the Coast

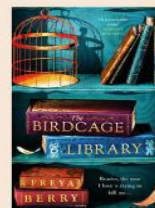
The perfect read for the top D&D fan. Discover all there is to know about the latest campaigns, with exciting features on Strixhaven: Curriculum of Chaos, *The Wild Beyond the Witchlight*, *Mordenkainen Presents: Monsters of the Multiverse*, and many more. Explore legendary locations such as Greyhawk and the Feywild, and brush up on fearsome monsters you might meet on your adventures.



PENNY

The Birdcage Library by Freya Berry

A mesmerising 1930s-set slice of gothic fiction, *The Birdcage Library* follows the endeavours of adventuress Emily Blackwood as she attempts to locate a mysterious artefact hidden in a crumbling Scottish castle. This would be perfect for Penny to get her teeth into, as she and Leonard await the arrival of their little bundle of joy.



Local Libraries International Children's Digital Library

Offering a wide range of children's titles, the International Children's Digital Library is the perfect place to visit if you're looking to update your reading list. Featuring a variety of authors and genres, there is something for everyone. Everything is free and can be accessed online at <http://www.childrenslibrary.org/>.



INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DIGITAL LIBRARY

A Library for the World's Children



First liners



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

1. Linnet Ridgeway! "That's Her." said Mr. Burnaby, the landlord of the Three Crowns.

2. ALICIA BERENSON WAS THIRTY-THREE YEARS OLD when she killed her husband.

3. It was love at first sight.

4. Here is the house.

5 "If I have learned anything in this long life of mine, it is this: in love we find out who we want to be; in war we find out who we are."

6. WHO AM I? And how, I wonder, will this story end?

7. The morning burned so August-hot, the marsh's moist breath hung the oaks and pines with fog.

8. There are 158 footsteps between the bus stop and home but it can stretch to 180 if you aren't in a hurry, like maybe if you're wearing platform shoes.

9 I have a fatal flaw.



Word of the Month

Whimsical

(Origin: English)

Something described as whimsical is unusual in a playful or amusing way.

Even the origin of whimsical is whimsical: its ultimate source (by way of the noun 'whimsy') is the now-obscure 'whim-wham', a noun from the early 16th century that first referred to an ornamental object or trinket, and later to an eccentric impulse or interest—that is, to what in modern terms can be called a whim.



Reading for Pleasure

Reading is a huge part of our academy. Throughout our school, we have implemented a number of reading strategies that will give pupils access to a wide range of literature both inside and outside the classroom.

Our *Reading for Pleasure* lessons have been met with fantastic positivity and enthusiasm from our KS3 pupils. Texts have been specifically chosen that link not only to our curriculum, but to our Christian values as well. This year, pupils will enjoy a range of texts such as:

Year 7

The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis
Once by Morris Gleitzman

Year 8

The Shadow in the North by Philip Pullman
Then by Morris Gleitzman

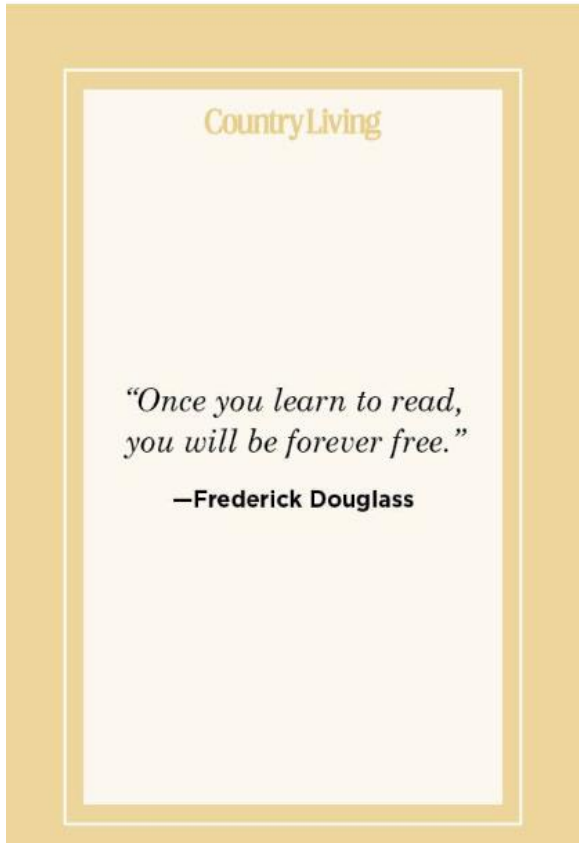
Year 9

The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Q. Raúf



Final Notes

Reading is so important to our Academy. The key aim of our reading drive is to encourage Reading for Pleasure. With that in mind, I leave you with the words of Frederick Douglass:



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 June’s newsletter and look forward to sending you September’s edition!

*Answers to First Lines:

1. *Death On the Nile* by Agatha Christie
2. *The Silent Patient* by Alex Michaelides
3. *Catch-22* by Joseph Heller
4. *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison
5. *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah
6. *The Notebook* by Nicholas Sparks
7. *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens
8. *Me Before You* by Jojo Moyes
9. *Beach Read* by Emily Henry

