



# IAN RAMSEY CE ACADEMY

Together to learn, to grow, to serve

# Reading Newsletter



# Welcome

Welcome to our June 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 an 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
- Bedrock 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



# this MONTH in history

# J U N E

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2021: June becomes Audiobook Appreciation Month	1840: Thomas Hardy is Born 1924: Franz Kafka dies	1863: Franz Kafka is born Women's Fiction Prize announced.			1924: V.C.> Andrews (Flowers in the Attic) is born.	1917: Gwendolyn Brooks (poet) is born. 1970: E.M. Forster dies.
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1789: James Madison introduces a proposed Bill of Rights in the US House of Representatives.	1870: Charles Dickens ('A Christmas Carol') dies. 1956: Patricia Cornwell ('Cause of Death') is born.	1921: D.H. Lawrence publishes 'Women in Love'.	1572: Ben Jonson ('Volpone') is born	1929: Anne Frank is born.	1865: William Butler Yeats born.	1986: Simone de Beauvoir dies.
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
2014: Daniel Keyes ('Flowers for Algernon') dies.	2021: Women's prize for fiction winner announced.		1940: Winston Churchill's 'this was their finest hour' speech delivered to the British House of Commons.	1947: Salman Rushdie is born. 1993: William Golding ('Lord of the Flies') dies	1895: First female PhD from an American University earned by Caroline Willard Baldwin.	1948: Ian McEwan ('Atonement') is born
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	1974: First extra-terrestrial message sent from Earth to space.		1903: George Orwell ('1984') is born.	1914: Laurie Lee ('Cider with Rosie') is born.		1712: Jean-Jacques Rousseau is born.
29	30					
1861: Elizabeth Barrett Browning (poet) dies.	1936: Margaret Mitchell publishes 'Gone With the Wind'.					

# Author spotlight



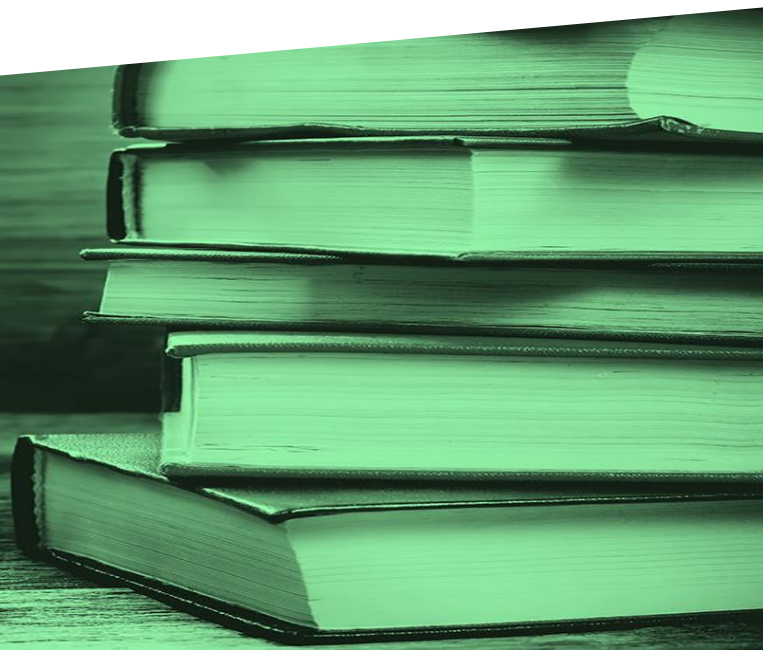
## This month's author: Nancy Revell

This month's featured author is again from the North East. **Nancy Revell** is the pen name of writer and journalist **Amanda Revell Walton**, who has worked for the national press for the past 25 years, providing them with hard-hitting news stories and in-depth features. She has also worked for just about every woman's magazine, writing amazing and inspirational true-life stories.

Nancy has spent the last five years living in her hometown of Sunderland to write the Shipyard Girls series. Drawing on local inspiration, historical records and her own close family ties to the Sunderland shipyards and more, Nancy Revell's books have spearheaded a campaign to honour the real women of Sunderland who worked in hugely dangerous conditions on the shipyards during WWII.

Sunderland boasted the largest shipyard in Europe during WWII, and produced a quarter of Britain's merchant shipping at the time. When the men went away to war, the courageous Shipyard Girls took up the backbreaking work building ships for the British Navy. Due to its size, the Sunderland Shipyards were a key target of Hitler's Blitzkrieg, making the work not only backbreaking but incredibly dangerous. Historians have estimated that without the courageous women working in Sunderland's shipyards during the war, WWII could very likely have been lost due to lack of ability to transport troops, provisions and ammunition.

Nancy Revell is also leading a public campaign for a new public statue in tribute to these amazing women to be displayed within the historic Sunderland Shipyards. Working closely with the Sunderland City Council and the Sunderland Soroptimists, a worldwide volunteer service organization for women, Nancy put out a call on her own social media channels and was approached by local artist Rosanne Robertson who has been commissioned to create the statue which will be unveiled in the near future.

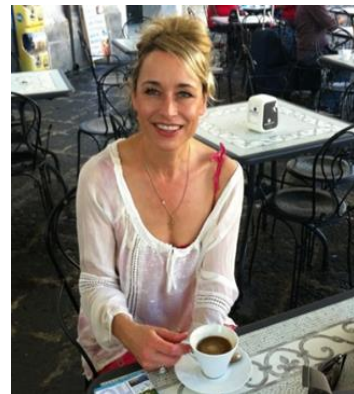




# Author to academy

Dear pupils, parents and staff at Ian Ramsey CE Academy,

The problem with reading, in my opinion, is finding something you enjoy. Something which speaks to you and draws you in. I used to love rummaging around in my local library picking up books, putting them back, and seeking out another until I found one which grabbed me



Nowadays when I'm trying to find a new author or a new book to read, I tend to download lots of samples until I find something which immediately sucks me in. I'm quite an impatient reader and I like the author to scoop me up and drag me in within the first chapter – *if not the first few pages*. It's how I like to write. My worst fear is to bore!

When I was at school and was seen to be struggling with my reading and writing by my rather hard-nosed English teacher, I was told, *'Read anything, Amanda! Even if it's the back of a cereal packet! A road sign!'* I have to laugh now thinking of her 'words of advice', but what I would say to anyone – young or old – is read anything and everything until you find something you really love – something which touches you as an individual, something which means something to you. We're all so different (thank goodness!) so what we like is peculiar to ourselves. Reading has always been about two things to me - education and escapism. And I think at the moment we all desperately need a good dose of the latter!

Hopefully, by the time you read this we will be out of lockdown, so good luck with all your studies, lessons and exams. I hope you all do well, as well as you can, but most of all, I hope you find what it is which fulfils you and which makes you happy.

With love, Amanda/Nancy x



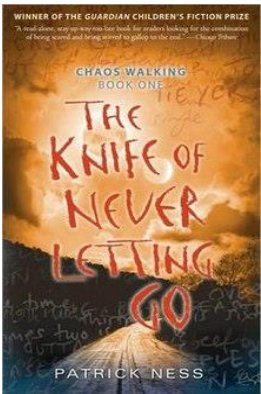
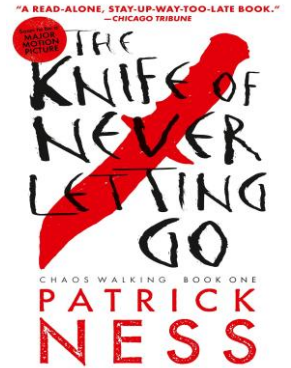
# From page to screen



*Chaos Walking* is an American dystopian action film which is based on a novel by Patrick Ness from the first book in his science fiction trilogy *Chaos Walking*. Based on the novel *The Knife of Never Letting Go*, the film stars Daisy Ridley, Tom Holland, Mads Mikkelsen, Demian Bichir, Cynthia Erivo, Nick Jonas and David Oyelowo.

The film follows a young man (Holland) who lives in a dystopian world without women, where all living creatures can hear each other's thoughts in the streams of images, words and sounds called 'Noise'. When a woman (Ridley) crash lands on the planet, he must help her escape danger.

The film received mixed reviews, but the novel was celebrated by critics and won annual awards including the *Booktrust Teenage Prize*, *The Guardian Award* and the *James Tiptree Jr Award*. So, is this a case where the book is better than the film? Why not try them yourself and let us know?



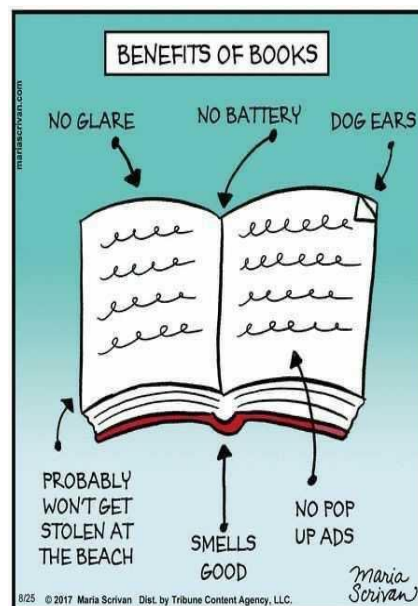
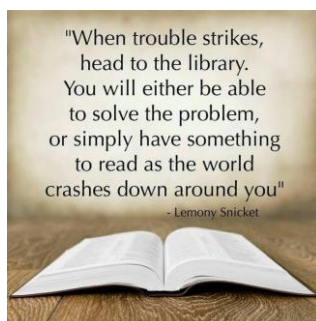
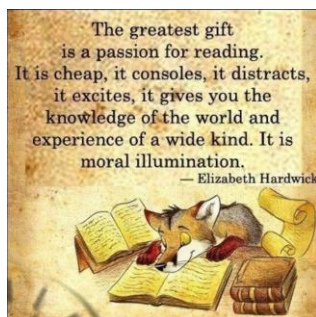


# Reading Facts

If children say they don't like reading it is because they haven't found the right book yet! Reading magazines, autobiographies, fact files, blogs, memes all count.

If your child is struggling to read, then why not direct them to Mrs Bailey, Ian Ramsey CE Academy's very own Librarian, keeper of books and fount of all knowledge in book related matters? We can guarantee that she will find a book your child will love. And if you contact her via email, it will all be socially distanced, meaning your child can find a book they enjoy at no risk to themselves!

## Things Book Lovers Do

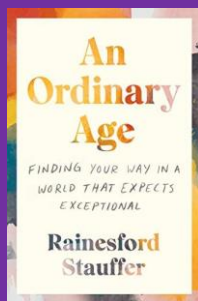


# What's new?

## Non-fiction

### 'An Ordinary Age' by Rainesford Stauffer

All too often, we're told that young adulthood will be the time of our lives—so why isn't it? Stauffer explores the diminishing returns of young adulthood in this soulful book, providing a meticulous cartography of how outer forces shape young people's inner lives. From chronic burnout to the loneliness epidemic to the strictures of social media, *An Ordinary Age* leads with empathy in exploring the myriad challenges facing young adults, while also advocating for a better path forward: one where young people can live authentic lives filled with love, community, and self-knowledge.



## Fiction

### 'Be Dazzled' by Ryan La Sala

Raffy has a passion for bedazzling and all things creation. He puts it above everyone and everything, determined to make his mark at this year's biggest cosplay competition. The only problem is Raffy's ex-boyfriend, Luca, is his main competition. While they tried to make it work as the perfect team, Luca's insecurities and Raffy's strive for perfection made their relationship crash and burn. When the two are forced to partner up, Raffy will have to juggle his heart and his determination.



## Poetry

### 'The Sunflower Cast a Spell to Save us From the Void' by Jackie Wang

It takes a special poetic skill to write about dark topics, such as trauma and crisis with a truly invigorating sense of humor. Jackie Wang has that skill and she showcases it beautifully in her collection, which debuts on January 26th, 2021.

The Sunflower Cast a Spell To Save Us From the Void reads like a journalistic account from a good friend of a dream world. Wang's dreams are full of interpersonal conflict, solidarity and resilience, and pleasure in breaking the rules. All the while she shows the reader how her dreams reveal historical trauma. However, her light touch and humor allows readers to see the social dimension of dreams, and how they can help shape the waking world.

#### THE SUNFLOWER CAST A SPELL TO SAVE US FROM THE VOID



JACKIE WANG



# Staff Recommendations



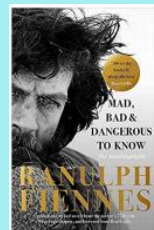
Miss Tucker recommends:  
**'Private Peaceful'** by Michael Morpurgo

I first read this novel in Year 7 and it was the first time I had been truly inspired by a book. It is beautifully written and moving; an easy read if you can hold back the tears.



Mr. Firth recommends:  
**'Mad, Bad and Dangerous to know'** by Ranulph Fiennes

From an unexpected change of career to developing an attitude where nothing is an obstacle; this book is utterly inspirational!



Mrs Robson recommends:  
**'Vile Bodies'** by Evelyn Waugh

Vile Bodies satirises the 'bright young things', rich youngsters partying in London after the restraints of World War I. When I read the novel, I can feel the joy of freedom, I can almost find myself amidst the flamboyance and gay hilarity of a world recovering from immense suffering. Love it!



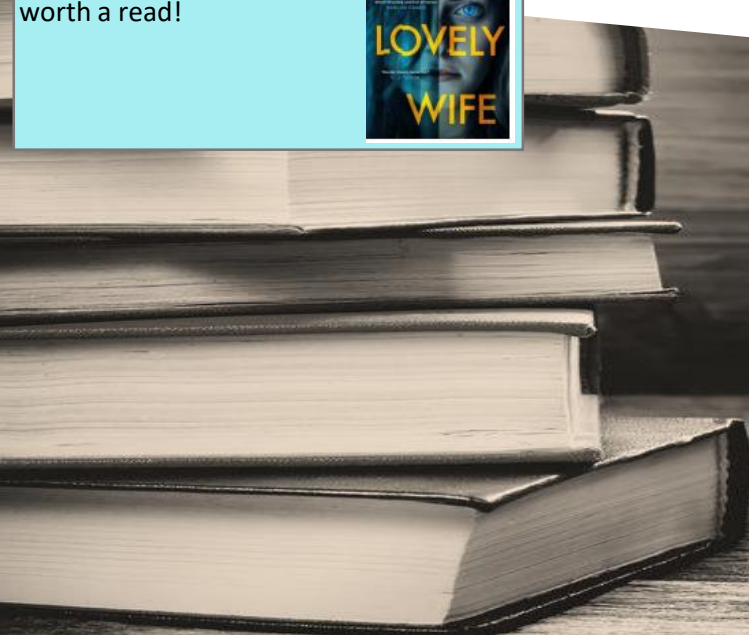
Miss. Maddison recommends:  
**'My Lovely Wife'** by Samantha Downing

There is a fantastic twist at the end of this psychological thriller that I literally screamed at! Well worth a read!



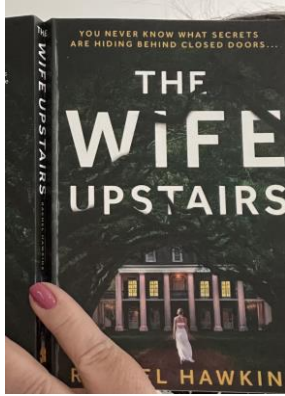
Mr. Reed recommends:  
**'Charlotte's Web'** by E.B. White

As I child I would read this with my mum before I would go to sleep. Whenever I hear the story it evokes nostalgic memories of comfort and joy.



# The Masked Reader

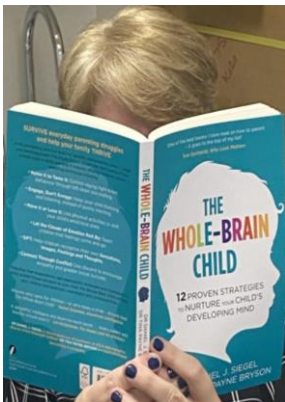
## Who's that behind the book?



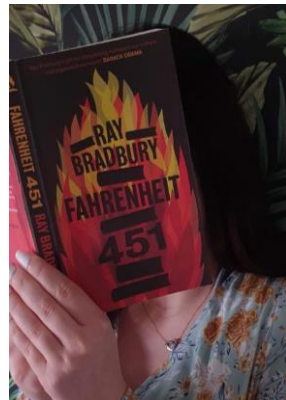
Which member of staff is Proud to have found time to finish this book?



Which member of staff is Rob-bing some time to read 'the Book Thief'?



Who is this Cooking up a plan to further support pupils?



She may be new to the school, but she's not new to reading! Who is it?

### Featured books:

**The Wife Upstairs** by Hawkins

**The Book Thief** by Markus Zusak

**Fahrenheit 451** by Ray Bradbury

**The Whole Brain Child** by Dr. Daniel. J. Siegel



# Local Libraries

## Darlington Central Library

You will find Darlington's Central Library on Crown Street in the centre of the market town. There are two entrances at the front of the building and an accessible lift at the Priestgate end of the building, which takes you straight into the main lending library.

Darlington Library houses the Lending Library, Reference Library, e-Library Computer Suite, Darlington Centre for Local Studies and the Crown Street Art Gallery, a gallery space championing exciting new artwork by local and regional artists.

The library is open:

- Monday to Friday: 10am-4pm
- Saturday: 10am-4pm
- Sunday: Closed
- Public Holidays: Closed

Find out more: <https://www2.darlington.gov.uk/web/arena/darlington>





# Have you been to..?

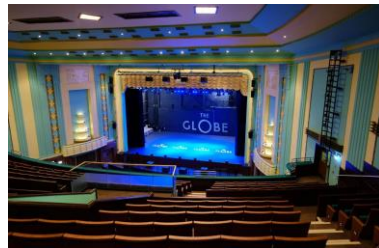
## Stockton Globe

Recently opening its doors following a multimillion-pound refurbishment, Stockton Globe will bring the world's biggest names in music and comedy to the North East.

A major restoration project funded by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund will see this beautiful art deco building transformed into a 3,000 capacity fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The refurbishment will also see a smaller 250 capacity venue open in the adjoining building.

Situated in the heart of Stockton High Street, Stockton Globe originally opened its doors in 1935. During its life as an entertainment venue it has played host to many international names from The Beatles and The Rolling Stones to Sadler's Wells Ballet and the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company.

Designed by the Newcastle-based architectural practice of Percy L. Browne who specialised in the "architecture of entertainment", the new auditorium officially opened its doors in 1935 known simply as 'The Globe', and is regarded as a building of national architectural importance and Grade II listed. The Globe is the third building on the site to be developed by Stockton born brothers, Charles and Alfred Lewis. And it was the first cinema in the area to include 'talkies', following the golden era of silent movies.



# First liners



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

1. Last night I dreamt I went to Manderley again.

2. It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen.'

3. Marley was dead: to begin with.

4. I write this sitting in the kitchen sink.

5. The sun did not shine, it was too wet to play, so we sat in the house all that cold, cold wet day.

6. All children, except one, grow up.

7. These two very old people are the father and mother of Mr. Bucket.

8. This is George. He lived in Africa.

9. Once there were four children whose names were Peter, Susan, Edmond, and Lucy.




# Bedrock Learning

Research has shown that children with wide vocabularies make excellent progress at school and in further education. For this reason, we have invested in an innovative literacy improvement tool called Bedrock Vocabulary. It is a website that helps children to learn very important academic vocabulary, whilst encouraging them to read regularly.

As your child progresses through the curriculum, they will study hundreds of words, whilst reading fiction and non-fiction texts regularly. Bedrock Vocabulary supports their progression and builds the skills and competencies they need to achieve. The programme guides them through scaffolded learning at an appropriate level for their individual needs. Pupils will also fill in an online vocabulary notebook to practise using the vocabulary they learn, and you can see and edit this yourself.

Pupils should complete a minimum of two lessons per week for it to be effective. Pupils can complete two consecutive lessons, one after the other, but we recommend they wait 48 hours between lessons. Pupils will not be able to complete more than two lessons in a day.

Stars of the month:



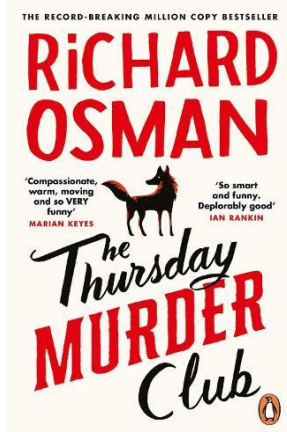
<b>April Stars</b>	<b>Most progress (Pupil)</b>	<b>Most progress (Class)</b>
Year 7	Maisie B	7G1
Year 8	Regan L	8L2
Year 9	Hayden T	9L2
Year 10	Thomas Y	10S/ACJ
Year 11	Ruby P	11L/AMR





# Bailey's Books

Each month we bring you recommendations from our very own Librarian, Mrs. Bailey. Here are this months:



Who would have thought murder could be so funny!

In a peaceful retirement village, four unlikely friends meet up once a week to investigate unsolved murders. But when a brutal killing takes place on their very own doorstep, the Thursday Murder Club find themselves in the middle of their first live case.

Elizabeth, Joyce, Ibrahim and Ron might be pushing eighty but they still have a few tricks up their sleeves. Can our unorthodox but brilliant gang catch the killer before it's too late?

When Rose Raventhorpe's beloved butler is found (gasp!) murdered in the hallway of her own house, she's determined to uncover the culprit. Especially since he is the third butler to die in a week!

Rose's investigation leads her on a journey into a hidden world of grave robbers and duelling butlers, flamboyant magicians and the city's ancient feline guardians.



# 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 Carl Sagan, astronomer, planetary scientist, cosmologist, astrophysicist; astrobiologist, author and science communicator:



If you've enjoyed this month's edition of the reading newsletter, don't forget to visit our dedicated reading section on our website. Click on 'Curriculum' and 'Reading' (or click on [this link: https://ianramsey.org.uk/curriculum/reading/](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 May's newsletter and look forward to sending you June's edition.

## \*Answers to the Masked Reader:

1. Mrs Proudman
2. Mrs Robson
3. Miss Murray
4. Mrs Cook

## \*Answers to First Lines:

1. 'Rebecca' by Daphne du Maurier
2. '1984' by George Orwell
3. 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens
4. 'I Captured the Castle' by Dodie Smith
5. 'The Cat in the Hat' by Dr. Sues

6. 'Peter Pan' by J.M. Barrie
7. 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' by Roald Dahl
8. 'Curious George' by H.A. Rey
9. 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' by C.S. Lewis

