



# IAN RAMSEY CE ACADEMY

Together to learn, to grow, to serve

# Reading Newsletter



# this MONTH in history

1	1922 William Manchester is born.	2	742 Charlemagne is born.	3	1783 Washington Irving is born.	4	1928 Maya Angelou is born.	5	1856 Booker T. Washington is born.	6	2005 Frank Conroy dies.	7	1770 William Wordsworth is born.
8	1955 Barbara Kingsolver is born.	9	1821 Charles Baudelaire is born.	10	1867 George William Russell ("A.E.") is born.	11	1970 John O'Hara dies.	12	1952 Gary Soto is born.	13	1906 Samuel Beckett is born.	14	1934 Mark Strand is born.
15	1843 Henry James is born.	16	1994 Ralph Ellison dies.	17	1790 Benjamin Franklin dies.	18	1580 Thomas Middleton is born.	19	1900 Richard Hughes is born.	20	1912 Bram Stoker dies.	21	1816 Charlotte Brontë is born.
22	1707 Henry Fielding is born.	23	1616 William Shakespeare dies.	24	1731 Daniel Defoe dies.	25	1800 William Cowper dies.	26	1660 Daniel Defoe is born.	27	1759 Mary Wollstonecraft is born.	28	1926 Harper Lee is born.
29	2006 John Kenneth Galbraith dies.	30	1945 Annie Dillard is born.										

# A P R I L

# 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: Tom Palmer

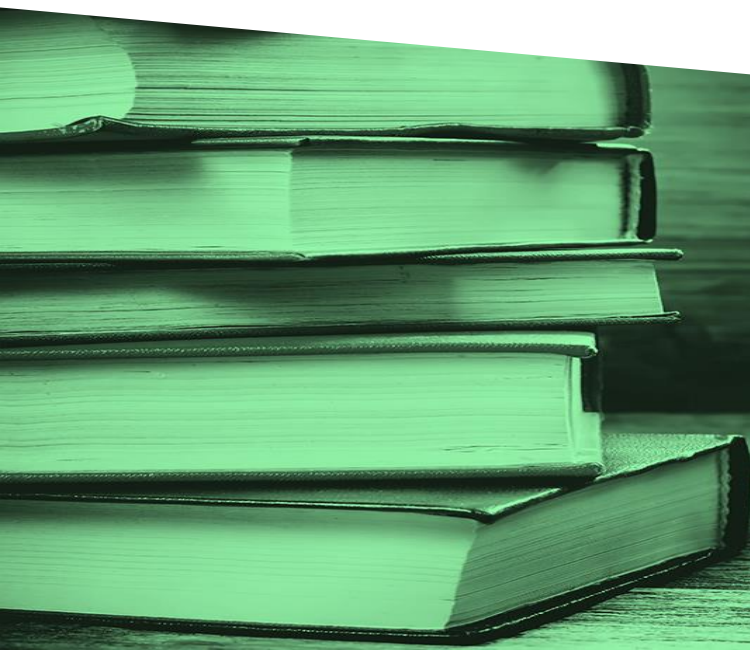


I am a father, husband, author, football fan and a reader. In fact, it was reading about football that changed my life.

I wasn't keen on reading when I was young. My mum was worried about me because I was struggling at school. She encouraged me to read about football in newspapers, magazines and books. Gradually I came to love books.

And, from that point, my life changed. I wanted to know *everything* about books. I went to night school to do A levels when I was 21. Then I did a degree in European Literature when I was 24. It was brilliant!

After I had graduated, I went to work in a bookshop, then a library, then I managed book festivals. All that time I was writing: stories, poems, diaries and books for adults. Then – after a few years – I was lucky enough to have one of my football books for children accepted by Puffin.



# Author to academy

Hello pupils and staff at Ian Ransley CE Academy



I enjoyed writing these history stories so we can learn from the experiences of real people. They are special shorter books that I would have wanted to read when I was at school.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tom Palmer'.

"Turning book-phobic boys into page-turning maniacs" Sunday Telegraph

"The best children's fiction book I've yet read about the Holocaust. After The War manages to be vividly engaging both as history education and as a human story - eye-opening, exciting, hugely touching. It may be aimed at 9-14 year-olds, but no-one should miss it." @CEOAnneFrankUK

**FREE first chapters of my books to read here: [www.tompalmer.co.uk/free-stuff/](http://www.tompalmer.co.uk/free-stuff/)**



# Author to academy

Hello pupils and staff at Iaw Ramsey CE Academy



I discovered reading through my hobby: sport. I read about football and rugby in newspapers, magazines, websites and books. I hope you find books about your interests.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'Tom Palmer'.



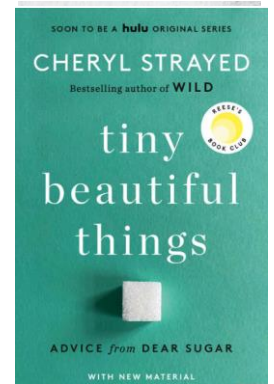
"I love Foul Play. It's exciting and fun and it is a thrilling equal to Anthony Horowitz's Alex Rider books." Alex Mumsnet

**FREE first chapters of my books to read here: [www.tompalmer.co.uk/free-stuff/](http://www.tompalmer.co.uk/free-stuff/)**

# From page to screen



This month's feature is Cheryl Strayed's *Tiny Beautiful Things*, originally published in 2012. With Reese Witherspoon and Laura Dern as executive producers, *Tiny Beautiful Things* will follow Clare as she navigates marriage and motherhood while her once-promising writing career slips like sand through her fingers. An old writing pal asks Clare to take over as the advice columnist Dear Sugar (Strayed's real-life column), and a new chapter begins. Finding her voice again through Sugar, Clare extracts the beauty in the struggle of her readers and even herself.





When he was ten years old, Amor Towles threw a message in a bottle into the Atlantic Ocean. It was found by Harrison Salisbury, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and editor of the New York Times, who responded. The two of them kept up correspondence for many years.

Maya Angelou used a hotel room as her study. She asked management to remove all paintings and decorative items from the room, and forbid housekeeping staff from cleaning the room. She stocked the room herself with a thesaurus, a dictionary, the Bible, and a few crossword puzzles.

Gone With The Wind sold a million copies in its first year of publication (1936), despite its "unprecedented" high price of \$3, and widespread hardship in the wake of the Great Depression.

Jodi Picoult has written several issues of Wonder Woman.





# 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](http://www.the52bookclub.com)



# April Reading Challenge

## My Reading Challenge April Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01 An autobiography	02 A biography	03 A book about your favourite subject at school	04 Made into a movie	05 A murder mystery	06 A book recommended by a friend	07 A banned book
08 About an author you have already studied	09 About history	10 A book recommended by a teacher	11 A new release	12 About positivity	13 About a famous artist	14 A true story
15 About friendship	16 A book set in the Victorian era	17 A book set in the future	18 A local story	19 A graphic novel	20 About World War II	21 A book under 200 pages
22 A book over 500 pages	23 Set in fictional town	24 A book from the library	25 Re-read your favorite	26 A book by your favourite author	27 Set in the 70's	28 About healthy eating
29 Poems	30 A non-fiction book	31 A book you wouldn't usually read				

### • Most Favorite List:

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### • Mediocre List:

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### • Less Favorite List:

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### Notes:

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

# Ian Ramsey Writers

## IAN RAMSEY WRITERS **SHORT STORY COMPETITION**



We invite submissions of short stories **5,000-10,000 words** in length on the theme of **COURAGE**. The deadline for submissions is **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June**. This competition is open to all year groups!

Stories could explore many different kinds of courage, such as:

- The courage to stand up for your beliefs and values
- Courage in the face of danger or uncertainty
- Finding or losing courage at a critical moment

Three winners will be selected from submissions, and will receive an **Ian Ramsey Writers certificate** (gold, silver or bronze) and a **£5, £10 or £15 book token!**

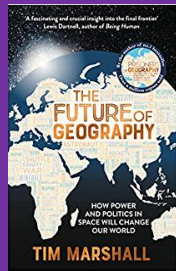
Please ask Dr Leatherland in 210 for more information.

# What's new?

## Non-fiction:

### *The Future of Geography: How Power and Politics in Space Will Change Our World* by Tim Marshall

The bestselling author of *Prisoners of Geography* and *The Power of Geography* turns his attention to the geopolitical space race, analysing the cosmic strides Russia, China and the United States have made and what it means for the rest of us down here on Earth.



## Fiction

### *The House of Whispers* by Anna Mazza

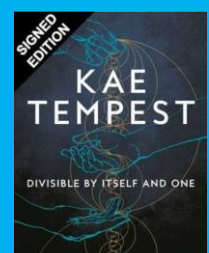
As the world teeters on the brink of war, talented pianist Eva Valenti enters the house of widower Dante Cavallera to become his new wife. On the outside, the forces of Fascism are accelerating, but in her new home, Eva fears that something else is at work, whispering in the walls and leaving mysterious marks on Dante's young daughter.



## Poetry

### *Divisible by Itself and One* by Kate Tempest

*Divisible by Itself and One* is the powerful new collection from our foremost truth-teller Kae Tempest. Ruminative, wise, with a newer, more contemplative and metaphysical note running through, it is a book engaged with the big questions and the emotional states in which we live and create.

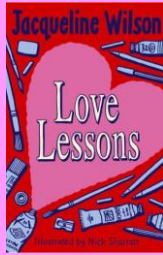


# Pupil Recommendations



## *Love Lessons* by Jacqueline Wilson

After their father suffers a life-changing stroke, Prue is forced to ditch her home education and attend the local comp where she faces some of the biggest tests of her life- and we're not talking about in the classroom.



## *War Horse* by Michael Morpurgo

In the deadly chaos of the First World War, one horse witnesses the reality of battle from both sides of the trenches. Bombarded by artillery, with bullets knocking riders from his back, Joey tells a powerful story of the truest friendships surviving in terrible times. One horse has seen the best and the worst of humanity.



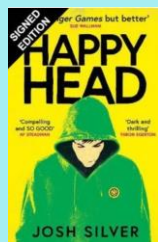
## *Hetty Feather* by Jacqueline Wilson

Life in the countryside is sometimes hard, but with her foster brothers, Jem and Gideon, Hetty helps in the fields and plays vivid imaginary games. Together they sneak off to visit the travelling circus, and Hetty is mesmerised by the show - especially the stunning Madame Adeline and her performing horses.



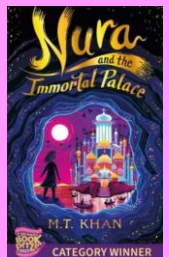
## *Happy Head* by Josh Silver

When Seb is offered a place on a radical retreat designed to solve the national crisis of teenage unhappiness, he is determined to change how people see him and make his parents proud. But as he finds himself drawn to the enigmatic Finn, Seb starts to question the true nature of the challenges they must undergo.



## *Nura and the Immortal Palace* by M.T. Khan

Nura has worked all her life in the mica mines, earning just enough to keep her family afloat - and enjoy the odd delicious gulab jamun from the market. Some day she's going to find the Demon's Tongue, a legendary treasure buried deep in the mines, and her family will never have to worry about money again.

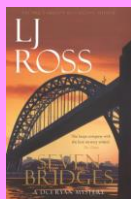


# Staff Recommendations



Ms. Dodd recommends: *Seven Bridges: A DCI Ryan Mystery* by LJ Ross

I've taken to reading the LJ Ross DCI Ryan series of books, they are all set in the North East so it's really easy to visualise where everything is taking place. A bit of easy reading on an evening but also has a good balance of murder and suspense. The last book I read 'Seven Bridges' had a great double twist at the end.



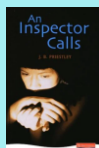
Mrs. Devenney recommends: *The Satsuma Complex* by Bob Mortimer

This book by comedian Bob Mortimer is a gentle stroll through a crime story. It like a cup of Bovril and a meat pie at a Boro match; warming, welcoming and fairly familiar. Gary, the main character, gets mixed up in a crime and whilst completely out of his depth, he manages to navigate his way quite well. Gary is a solicitor, as the author was before meeting Vic Reeves and changing career to TV comedian; like you do!



Mr. Wallace recommends: *An Inspector Calls* by J.B. Priestley

Arthur Birling, a prosperous manufacturer, is holding a family dinner party to celebrate his daughter's engagement. Into this cosy scene intrudes the harsh figure of a police inspector investigating the suicide of a young working-class woman. Under interrogation, every member of the family turns out to have a shameful secret which links them with her death.



Miss. Bolland recommends: *The Only Suspect* by Louise Candlish

I've been a fan of Candlish's work for a while, so this took top priority on my reading list. Chilling, mysterious and utterly unputdownable.



Miss. Booth is reading *The Viscount Who Loved Me* by Julia Quinn

The second, enchanting volume in Quinn's bestselling series, *The Viscount Who Loved Me* charts the path of Anthony, the oldest of the Bridgerton siblings, as he, tasked with securing the family lineage, finds himself in need of a wife.





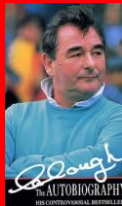
# House recommendation: Bede

## Mr Spence (House Captain)

### *Clough the Autobiography* by Brian Clough

As a big sport and football fan books from famous figures of the game are always something I enjoy. Brian Clough is local to our area and a true icon and charismatic figure within the game making it an enjoyable and sometimes controversial read.

Despite his outgoing nature, Clough has always guarded his privacy. At last he has decided to tell his full story: from terraced council house in Middlesbrough, to luxurious mansion in an exclusive suburb of Derby. This is an extraordinary life taught by an extraordinary man.

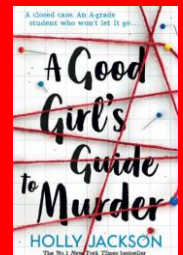


## Emily (House Prefect)

### *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* by Holly Jackson

I like it because it is about a girl researching an old murder case for her EPQ in college, and she ends up having to reopen the case, as she finds out new information about the murder.

A compelling murder mystery that follows in the footsteps of the genre-busting *One of Us is Lying*, Jackson's impressively accomplished debut features a likeable teenage sleuth out to crack a cold case as part of her homework assignment.



## Harry (House Pupil)

### *The Unexpected Tale of the Bad Brothers* by Clare Povey

I liked the book because there were some really interesting backstories from the characters. Also, the story that was told in the book was really interesting because you don't know what will happen next. Bastien Bonlivre is in trouble again. His sworn enemy, Olivier Odieux, has escaped jail and is out for revenge... Meanwhile, across Paris, fires are burning, and danger lurks at every corner. Who could be behind this?



# What are they reading?

## modern family

### Phil

*The Magic Toyshop* by Angela Carter

This title alone would pique Phil's interest. An avid magician himself, he may be swept up in Angela Carter's wondrous world.

After being forced to leave behind all that she knows, Melanie becomes acquainted with her Uncle Phillip, who only loves the puppets that he creates in his workshop, which are life-sized and uncannily life-like.



### Claire

*Women in Business* by Viki Holton and Fiona Elsa Dent

Everybody knows that Claire is the queen of closets. After taking over the firm from her father, this is an aspiring read that Claire would love. This book looks at the career experiences of a group of women managers and consider what helps, and what still hinders their progress.



### Luke

*Can't We Just Print More Money?* by Rupal Patel and Jack Meaning

There's book smart, there's street smart and then there's Luke. Although he has matured over the years, Luke's motivation in life is to make money. You just know a title like this would have Luke running to the bookshop.



### Hayley

*Me, Myself and Mini Me* by Charlotte Crosby

After the arrival of her bundles of joy, this would be the perfect read for Hayley as she gets to grips with being a brand-new mum. Here, in *Me, Myself and Mini Me*, Charlotte talks us through the rollercoaster of these last few jam-packed years and opens up about the realities of pregnancy and parenthood.



### Alex

*Me Vs Brain* by Hayley Morris

There is no doubt that Alex is wise beyond her years. After navigating through the often murky waters of high school and ending up as Valedictorian, Alex went on to graduate from the prestigious CalTech. Is it any surprise that Alex sometimes needed a pep talk from time to time? *Me vs Brain* could be the perfect choice if Alex was ever looking for some advice. Morris might not be able to banish Alex's anxiety or make her feel 100% comfortable in her own skin, but hopefully, she can give Alex a break from the constant brain chatter and she can rejoice and laugh at how similar we actually all are.



# Local Libraries

*Free Children Stories* is a fantastic website that offers a range of fictional stories for pupils as young as eight. If you are looking for a fun family story, or even looking for inspiration to write your own, this is a brilliant website to use. All stories available are completely free and will suit a range of tastes.

A former mechanical engineer, Daniel Errico left his career at an investment bank to create [freechildrenstories.com](http://freechildrenstories.com). In the years since, he has produced multiple number one best-selling children's e-books with B & N and has books in stores nationwide through Sky Pony Press and Schiffer Publishing. His works have been made into books, best-selling e-books, animated films, apps, and even [plays](#). He is also the creator of the award-winning Hulu Original Series, *The Bravest Knight*. Throughout, his stories have been available online to encourage literacy and free media for kids.



[Freechildrenstories.com](http://Freechildrenstories.com)



# First liners



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

1. Here is a small fact. You are going to die.

2. All this happened, more or less.

3. Your house glows at night like everything inside is on fire.

4. When I stepped out into the bright sunlight from the darkness of the movie house, I had only two things on my mind: Paul Newman and a ride home.

5. It was a queer, sultry summer, the summer they electrocuted the Rosenbergs, and I didn't know what I was doing in New York.

6. You are a fingerprint. When you open your eyes on the last day of your life, you see your own thumb.

7. Many years later, as he faced the firing squad, Colonel Aureliano Buendía was to remember that distant afternoon when his father took him to discover ice.

8. This is my favourite book in all the world, though I have never read it.

9. This is the story of a man named Eddie and it starts at the end, with Eddie dying in the sun. It may seem strange to start a story with an ending, but all endings are also beginnings. We just don't know it at the time.



# Word of the Month

## Disparate

(Origin: Middle English)

*Disparate* essentially means incomparable. If something is disparate, it is different in kind. If you enjoy sorting different objects into separate categories, you're well prepared to understand the origins of *disparate*. The word, which first appeared in English in the 16th century, comes from the Latin verb *disparāre*, meaning "to divide, separate off, make different." *Disparāre*, in turn, comes from *parāre*, a verb meaning "to supply, provide, make ready or prepare." Other descendants of *parāre* in English include both *separate* and *prepare*, as well as *repair*, *apparatus*, and even the pugnacious *vituperate* ("to criticise harshly and usually publicly").



# 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

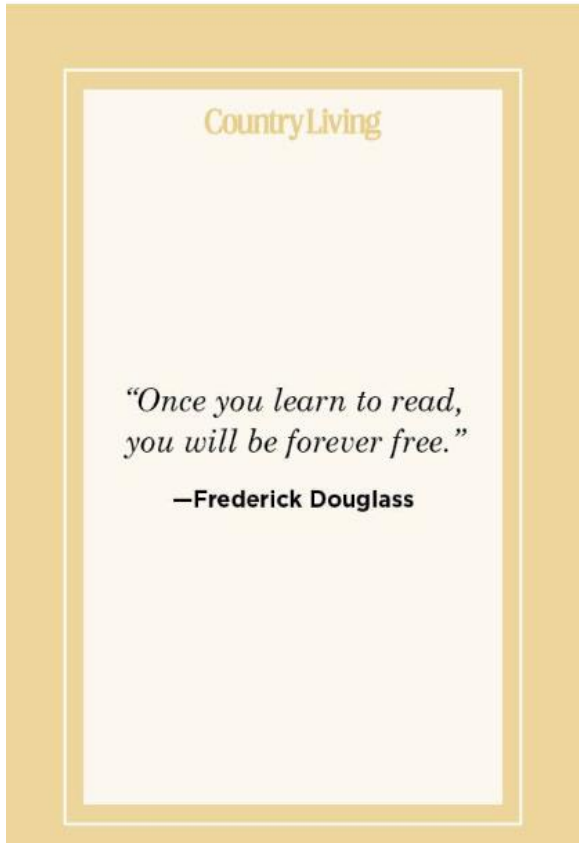
## Year 9

*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. 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 April’s newsletter and look forward to sending you May’s edition!

\*Answers to First Lines:

1. The Book Thief by Markus Zusak
2. Slaughterhouse Five by Kurt Vonnegut
3. The Push by Ashley Audrain
4. The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton
5. The Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath
6. Notes on an Execution by Danya Kukafka
7. One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel Garcia Marquez
8. The Princess Bride by William Goldman
9. The Five People You Meet in Heaven by Mitch Albom

