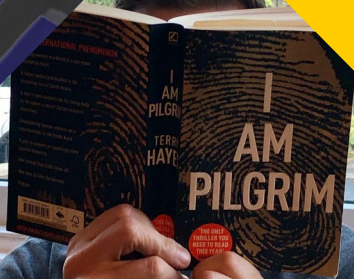




IAN RAMSEY CE ACADEMY

Together to learn, to grow, to serve

Reading Newsletter



this MONTH in history

FEBRUARY

<u>1933</u> Reynolds Price is born.	<u>1882</u> James Joyce is born.	<u>1874</u> Gertrude Stein is born.	<u>1961</u> Jonathan Larson is born.	<u>1942</u> Susan Hill is born.	<u>1937</u> Of Mice and Men is published.	<u>1601</u> Shakespeare's Richard II is presented at the Globe.
<u>1911</u> Elizabeth Bishop is born.	<u>1944</u> Alice Walker is born.	<u>2005</u> Arthur Miller dies.	<u>1963</u> Sylvia Plath dies.	<u>1938</u> Judy Blume is born.	<u>1766</u> Thomas Malthus is born.	<u>1817</u> Frederick Douglass is born.
<u>1939</u> Lillian Hellman's drama <i>The Little Foxes</i> is produced.	<u>1992</u> Angela Carter dies.	<u>1924</u> Margaret Truman is born.	<u>1931</u> Toni Morrison is born.	<u>2002</u> Virginia Hamilton dies.	<u>1925</u> Alex La Guma is born.	<u>1927</u> Erma Bombeck is born.
<u>1903</u> Morley Callaghan is born.	<u>1821</u> John Keats dies.	<u>1929</u> Ralph McInerny is born.	<u>1917</u> John Burgess Wilson (Anthony Burgess) is born.	<u>1802</u> Victor Hugo is born.	<u>1902</u> John Steinbeck is born.	<u>1916</u> Henry James dies.
<u>1996</u> Sinclair Ross dies.						

Welcome

Welcome to our February 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?

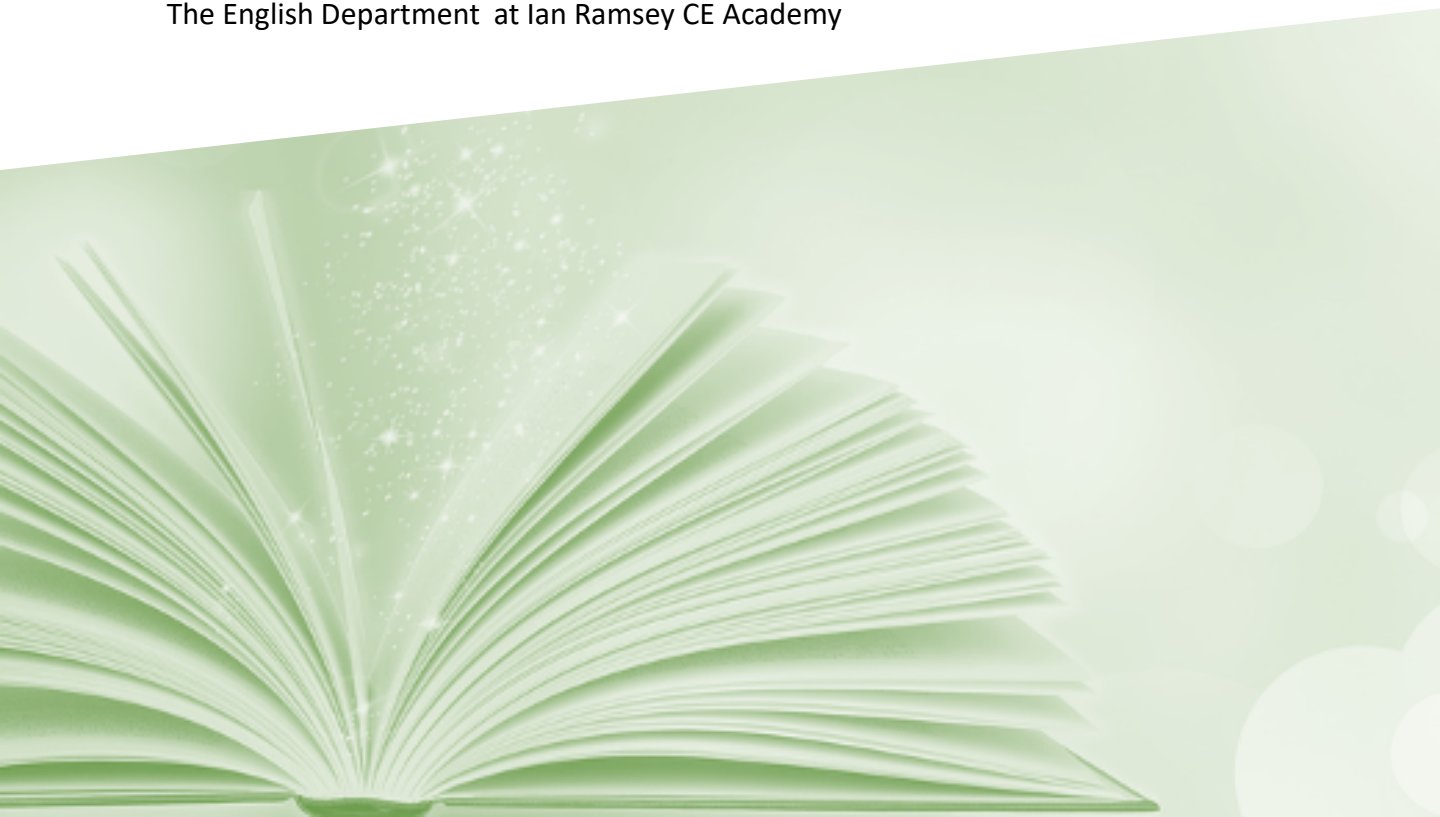
This newsletter is a chance to find out about:

- 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 cup of tea and enjoy our Reading Newsletter.

As always, your support is hugely appreciated,

The English Department at Ian Ramsey CE Academy



Author spotlight



This month's author: Anna Fargher

Anna Fargher was raised in a creative hub on the Suffolk coast by an artist and a ballet teacher. She read English Literature at Goldsmiths before working in the British art world and opening her own gallery. She wrote her first book, *THE UMBRELLA MOUSE*, on her iPhone notepad during her daily commute on the London Underground.

'The Umbrella Mouse' won the 2019 Sainsbury's Book Prize for Fiction. It was also selected as Waterstones Book of the Month, longlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize and was listed in the Sunday Telegraph's 50 Best Books of 2019 as well appearing as its Children's Book of the Week, and featured in the iNewspaper's list of 30 Best Children's Books 2019. Its eagerly anticipated sequel, 'Umbrella Mouse to the Rescue', was released on 23rd July 2020. The New Statesman described both books as 'the best animal adventures since Margery Sharpe's 'The Rescuers''

Anna's third historical adventure, 'The Fire Cats of London', was published on 7th July 2022 and was The Times and The Daily Mail's Children's Book of the Week.

Credit- <https://www.annafargher.com/about-annafargher>



Author to academy

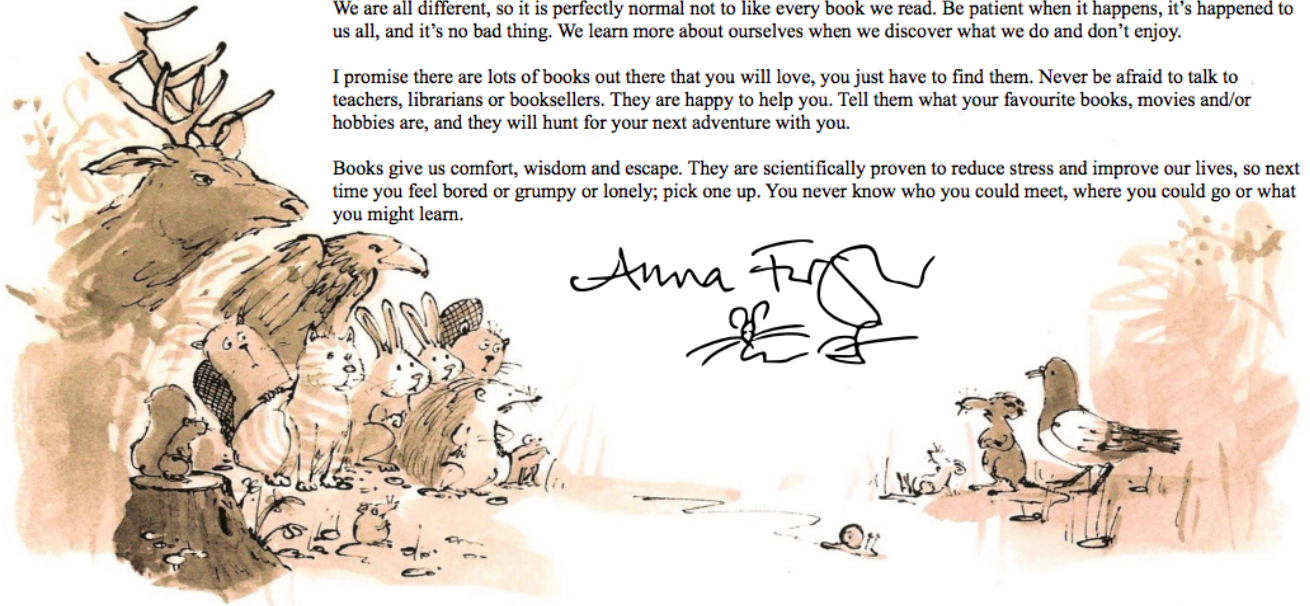


Every time we open a book, something magical happens. We time travel, we read minds, we teleport to different places and different worlds. Every story we read makes our brains grow with knowledge, and our hearts grow with empathy, which not only makes us better people; it also makes the world a better place.

We are all different, so it is perfectly normal not to like every book we read. Be patient when it happens, it's happened to us all, and it's no bad thing. We learn more about ourselves when we discover what we do and don't enjoy.

I promise there are lots of books out there that you will love, you just have to find them. Never be afraid to talk to teachers, librarians or booksellers. They are happy to help you. Tell them what your favourite books, movies and/or hobbies are, and they will hunt for your next adventure with you.

Books give us comfort, wisdom and escape. They are scientifically proven to reduce stress and improve our lives, so next time you feel bored or grumpy or lonely; pick one up. You never know who you could meet, where you could go or what you might learn.



Anna Fargher

Words © Anna Fargher

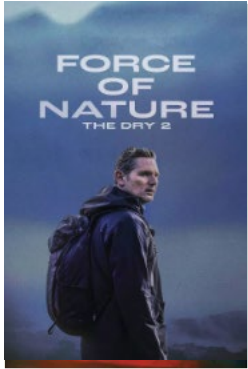
Illustrations © Sam Usher 2019

THE UMBRELLA MOUSE

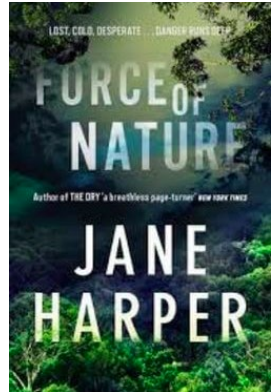
Anna Fargher



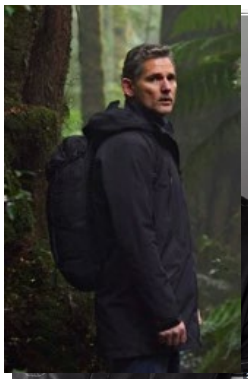
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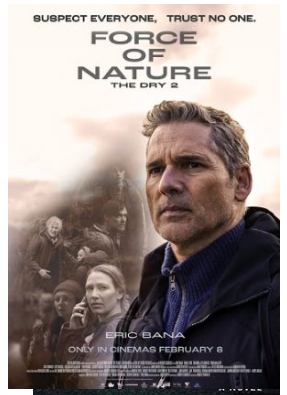
Directed by Robert Connolly and starring Eric Bana and Anna Torv, Force of Nature: The Dry 2 is due in cinemas this month.



In the Australian Outback, when five women set out on a hike for a corporate retreat but only four return, Federal Police Investigator Aaron Falk is drawn into the case.



The missing woman was to be a key witness against the company, giving her co-workers plenty of motives to want her dead.





? DID YOU KNOW ?

Another fun fact about reading to children is that if you would read 1 children's book per day to your toddler, he or she would have "read" 1825 books by the age of 5.

Reading can have a major impact on our health, our personality, our ability to relate to others, the level of compassion we feel, our general knowledge, and last but definitely not least, on the way our society looks and works. Needless to say, reading is a huge part of our lives and it should be treated as such.

Reading a good book after a long and stressful day works wonders on our state of mind. Studies have actually shown that leafing through a book can be up to 600% more efficient in relieving stress than playing a video game and 300% more efficient than going for a walk.

Joseph Addison said that "reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body", and he couldn't have said it better. Reading brings existing neural pathways to life and keeps your brain elastic and active.



2023 Reading Challenge

2024

READING CHALLENGE



A BOOK WITH
MULTIPLE
POINTS OF
VIEW

REREAD YOUR
FAVORITE
BOOK

A SPICY
ROMANCE

A BOOK
BEING
ADAPTED FOR
TV/FILM

A BOOK WITH
A 1-WORD
TITLE.

PART OF A
DUOLOGY

A NON-
FICTION
BOOK

A BOOK
PUBLISHED
IN 2024

A BOOK WITH
OVER 350
PAGES

A BOOK YOU
OWN, BUT
HAVE NEVER
READ

A BOOK
WITH A KING
OR QUEEN

LISTEN
TO AN
AUDIOBOOK

A BOOK YOU
MEANT TO
READ LAST
YEAR

READ A
BOOK IN A
DAY

A BOOK
ABOUT
MENTAL
HEALTH

A BOOK SET
IN A
DIFFERENT
CENTURY

A BOOK THAT
WON AN
AWARD

A THRILLER
OR
MYSTERY

RETELLING OF
A FAIRY TALE
OR CLASSIC
NOVEL

A BOOK BY
AN AUTHOR
YOU'VE NEVER
READ

February Reading Challenge

My Reading Challenge February Calendar



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
06 About a politician	07 Celebrity memoir	01 A ghost story	02 Made into a movie	03 A murder mystery	04 Financial help book	05 A banned book
13 About relationship	14 An 18th century classic	08 A gifted book	09 A new release	10 To build self-love	11 About a famous artist	12 A true story
20 A self-improvement book	21 Set in fictional town	15 A book set in the future	16 A local story	17 A graphic music	18 About World War II	19 A book under 200 pages
27 Poems	28 A horror	22 A pocket book	23 Re-read your favorite	24 A lesser known book	25 Set in the 70's	26 About healthy eating



• **Most Favorite List:**

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• **Mediocre List:**

.....

• **Less Favorite List:**

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Notes:

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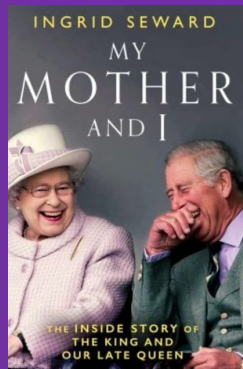


What's new?

Non-fiction

My Mother and I by Ingrid Seward

A celebration of the power of family and an intimate portrait of key figures in the royal household, this captivating volume charts the complex and devoted relationship between King Charles and the late Queen.



Fiction

A Tempest of Tea: Blood and Tea by Hafsah Faizal

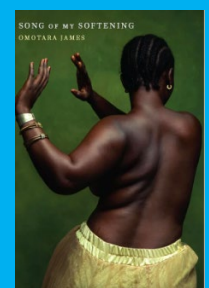
On the streets of White Roaring, Arthie Casimir is a criminal mastermind and collector of secrets. Her prestigious tearoom transforms into an illegal bloodhouse by dark, catering to the vampires feared by society. But when her establishment is threatened, Arthie is forced to strike an unlikely deal with an alluring adversary to save it – and she can't do the job alone.



Poetry

Song of my Softening by Omotara James

Omotara James's 'Song of My Softening', the debut poetry collection from the Cave Canem and Lambda Literary fellow, also starts in the body, considering how one's relationship with oneself informs and contradicts one's relationship with the world.



Pupil Recommendations



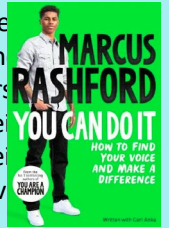
The Space Between Here and Now by Sarah Suk

Perfect for fans of *They Both Die at the End* and *You've Reached Sam*, this gripping, atmospheric YA novel follows a teen with a mysterious condition that transports her to the past when she smells certain scents linked to specific memories.



You Can Do it: How to Find your Voice and Make a Difference by Marcus Rashford

From the international football icon, activist and author of *You Are a Champion* comes another volume to inspire and energise young readers helping them to find their voices and use their assertiveness to achieve beneficial goals.



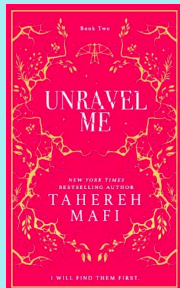
Letters From the Lighthouse by Emma Carroll

After months of bombing raids in London, twelve-year-old Olive Bradshaw and her little brother Cliff are evacuated to the Devon coast. The only person with two spare beds is Mr Ephraim, the local lighthouse keeper. But he's not used to company and he certainly doesn't want any evacuees.



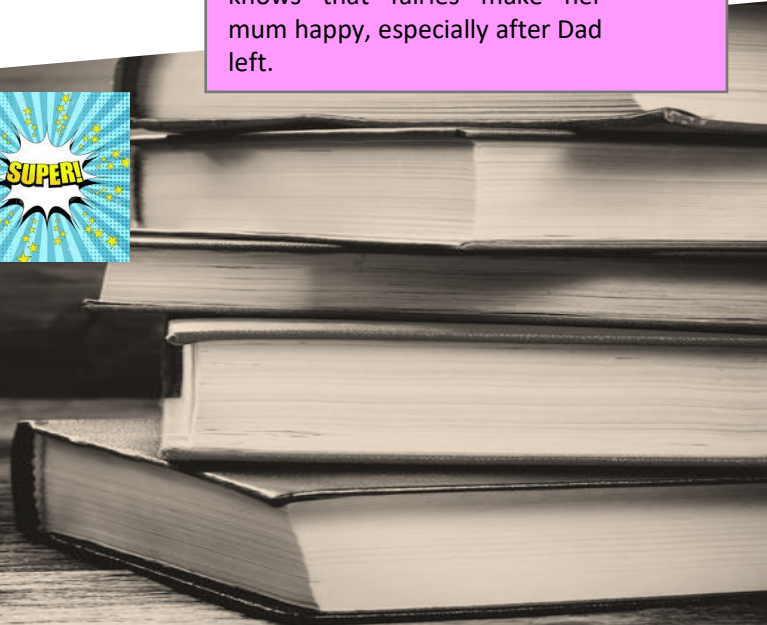
Unravel Me by Tahereh Mafi

Discover the romantic, addictive and thrilling world of Tahereh Mafi's fantasy *Shatter Me* with this second book in the series. This stunning hardback collector's edition with its exclusive design and gold reading ribbon is the perfect gift for fans and new readers alike



Project Fairy by Jacqueline Wilson

Mab's mum is obsessed with fairies - she even named Mab after the Fairy Queen! Their flat is full of fairy ornaments, tiny fairy furniture and they've even got fairy lights in the toilet. Mab doesn't quite get it, but she knows that fairies make her mum happy, especially after Dad left.



Staff Recommendations



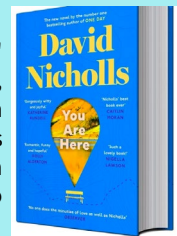
Fourteen Days by Margaret Atwood

One week into the COVID-19 shutdown, tenants of a Lower East Side apartment building in Manhattan have begun to gather on the rooftop and tell stories. With each passing night, more and more neighbours gather, bringing chairs and milk crates and overturned pails. Gradually the tenants - some of whom have barely spoken to each other - become real neighbours.



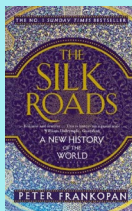
You Are Here by David Nicholls

Written with Nicholls' trademark wit and empathy, this affecting love story from the author of *One Day* finds two lost souls thrown together on an epic coast to coast walk.



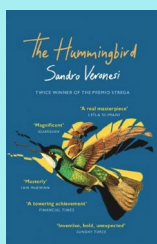
The Silk Roads: A New History of The World by Peter Frankopan

Peter Frankopan considers how as western readers of history, our understanding of the world is shaped by the narrow focus on western Europe and the United States and accounts of history that preferences 'the winners of recent history.'



The Hummingbird by Sando Veronesi

Marco Carrera is 'the hummingbird,' a man with the almost supernatural ability to stay still as the world around him continues to change. As he navigates the challenges of life, Marco comes to represent the quiet heroism that pervades so much of our everyday existence.



Seeing Things by Oliver Postgate

The story of Oliver Postgate's extraordinary and adventurous life, and the wonderful characters who populated it - both real and imagined - is witty, charming, beautifully remembered and exquisitely told.



Local Libraries

This one is very close to home!

Although this library has been our feature in a previous newsletter, it is always important to celebrate our wonderful LRC!

With a wide range of both fiction and non-fiction books, the LRC is open to pupils throughout the school day, as well as before and after school.

Here, you can take advantage of Home Club, which is run on a daily basis and can complete additional research for any upcoming projects.

For more information, please speak to Miss Bailey.



First liners



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

1. You better not never tell nobody but God. It'd kill your mammy.

2. As Gregor Samsa awoke one morning from uneasy dreams, he found himself transformed in his bed into a gigantic insect.

3. The sweat was lashing oafay Sick Boy; he was trembling.

4. The snow in the mountains was melting and Bunny had been dead for several weeks before we came to understand the gravity of our situation.

5. We were somewhere around Barstow on the edge of the desert when the drugs began to take hold.

6. 124 was spiteful. Full of Baby's venom.

7. Ships at a distance of every man's wish on board.

8. Hale knew, before he had been in Brighton three hours, that they meant to murder him.

9. Life changes fast. Life changes in the instant. You sit down to dinner and life as you know it ends. The question of self-pity



Word of the Month

Savant

(Origin: Latin)

Savant is a formal word that refers to a learned person, especially someone with detailed knowledge about a particular subject. The word is also used to refer to a person affected with a developmental disorder who exhibits exceptional skill or brilliance in a particular subject or field.

If you're a particularly fond etymologist, you will appreciate how much there is to know about *savant*. For one, *savant* comes ultimately from the Latin word *sapere* ("to be wise") by way of Middle French, where *savant* is the present participle of *savoir*, meaning "to know." Second, *savant* shares roots with the English words *sapient* ("possessing great wisdom") and *sage* ("very wise") (as well as *Homo sapiens*).



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 Joyce Carol Oates:

CountryLiving

“Reading is the sole means by which we slip, involuntarily, often helplessly, into another’s skin, another’s voice, another’s soul.”

—Joyce Carol Oates

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 March’s edition!

*Answers to First Lines:

1. The Colour Puple by Alice Walker
2. Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka
3. Trainspotting by Irvine Welsh
4. The Secret History by Donna Tartt
5. Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas by Hunter S. Thompson
6. Beloved by Toni Morrison
7. Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston
8. Brighton Rock by Graham Greene
9. The Year of Magical Thinking by Joan Didion

