



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 cuppa and enjoy our Reading Newsletter.

As always, your support is hugely appreciated,

Mrs Chapman-Jones



Author spotlight



This month's author: Dan Smith

Growing up, I led three lives. In one I survived the day-to-day humdrum of boarding school, while in another I travelled the world, finding adventure in the paddy fields of Asia and the jungles of Brazil. But the third life I lived in a world of my own, making up stories . . . Which is where some people say I still live most of the time.

I have lived in many places that inspire my writing - including Sierra Leone, Sumatra, northern and central Brazil. I've even lived in Spain and in the Soviet Union, but I'm now settled in Newcastle with my wife and two children to keep me on my toes. And, boy, do they keep me on my toes!

Past jobs have varied from dishwasher *extraordinaire* (or, perhaps, just *ordinaire*), social security fraud (detecting it, not committing it), to working on giant-sized Christmas decorations, and a fistful of mundane office jobs, but throughout all of those things, I always loved stories, I always loved a good adventure, and I always kept writing.



Author to academy



Hello Awesome Readers,

I have a confession to make. I didn't want to be an author. So many of the authors I meet say they always wanted to be an author, ever since they could remember. They tell me they wrote books when they were young children, drawing the covers, and sticking the pages together. Not me. I wanted to be a cowboy. There were a lot of cowboys on TV when I was growing up, especially on Saturday morning, and I thought cowboys were cool. I even had a cowboy outfit, complete with hat and holster. Of course, as I grew older and became more sensible, I realised that I didn't really want to be a cowboy. I actually wanted to be Han Solo. You might know him from Star Wars. Well, I'm neither a cowboy nor Han Solo, but I *am* an author and, you know what? It's the best job in the world for me because I get to make up stories, write them down, and share them with awesome readers like you.

When I was growing up, I spent a lot of time with my head in the clouds. I loved stories and looked for them wherever I could. I watched TV, films, and I read whatever kind of books I could get my hands on – adventure stories, spy stories, horror stories, science fiction, fantasy, comedy, graphic novels ... the list goes on. In fact, my head was always filled with stories. Stories were important to me because they didn't just keep me entertained, they helped me to escape.



Author to academy



I was born right here in north east England, but at a young age I moved overseas with my family to live in Africa, Sumatra, and then Brazil. The stories I found in books always kept me entertained when the dark nights drew in or the afternoons were empty, but they became most important when I returned to England to attend boarding school. I didn't much like boarding school. There were a lot of rules, there was hardly any time to be alone, and I missed home. So, when I was at school, and I needed to forget the world around me, I used to pick up a book and find a *new* world. In the pages of a book, I didn't have to be at school anymore, I could be flying through space, or diving to the bottom of the ocean to search for treasure. I could be solving a crime, fighting a dragon, riding a horse across the desert ... anything. With a book in my hands, I could escape to wherever the story took me.

Sometimes people dismiss stories, saying, 'Oh, it's just escapism,' as if escapism is a bad thing. But it isn't a bad thing, it's a good thing. It's a great thing - a *healthy* thing – because in this chaotic life, we all need a little escape.

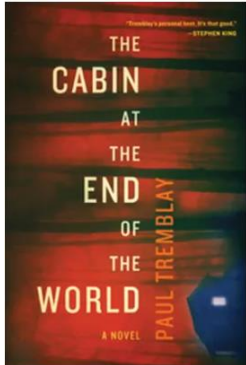
Reading stories is good for us. It relieves stress and anxiety, and it makes us smarter, better people. So keep reading, and keep loving stories.

Be kind, be brave, be strong.

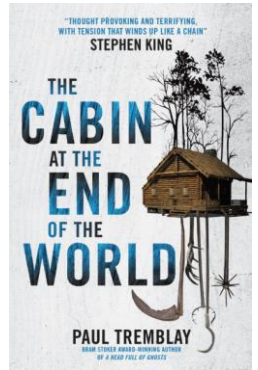
Dan



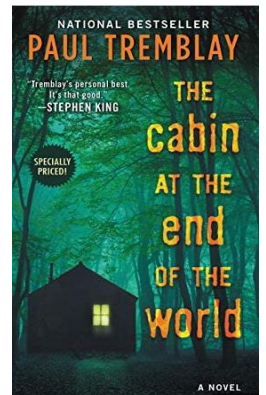
From page to screen



The Cabin at the End of the World is about a family vacationing in a remote cabin with no one around for miles, has been adapted into the apocalyptic psychological horror film *Knock at the Cabin*, directed by M. Night Shyamalan.



A friendly stranger appears in the driveway and the family's 7-year-old child invites the man to play. As they bond, more strangers arrive, and the parents are taken hostage. Packed with paranoia, this gripping tale balances terror and suspense as the family is asked to make the ultimate sacrifice.





? 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.

Some remarkable people also had remarkable reading speeds. Napoleon for example was able to read at the absolutely astonishing rate of 2000 words per minute. Stories about Honore de Balzac said that he was able to finish a small novel in under half an hour.

Toddlers who are being read to have been shown to be almost one year ahead in mental development compared to children of the same age who haven't. Something to keep in mind next time you're deciding on an activity for you and your child.

Moreover, a 2019 study shows that children who are read to in the 5 years leading up to kindergarten are being exposed to over 1 million more words than children who are not.



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



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

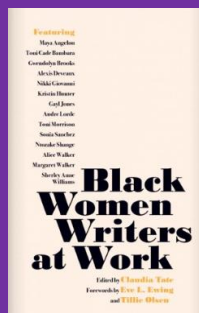
Bronze Award:	Silver Award:	Gold Award:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read a fiction text • Read a non-fiction text • Listen to an audio book • Review a book that has been made into a film • Read the reading in at least one worship each term 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read one non-fiction 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

Black Women Writers At Work by Claudia Tate

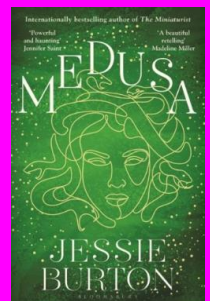
Through candid interviews with Maya Angelou, Toni Cade Bambara, Gwendolyn Brooks, Alexis De Veaux, Nikki Giovanni, Kristin Hunter, Gayl Jones, Audre Lorde, Toni Morrison, Sonia Sanchez, Ntozake Shange, Alice Walker, Margaret Walker, and Sherley Anne Williams, the book highlights the practices and critical linkages between the work and lived experiences of Black women writers whose work laid the foundation for many who have come after.



Fiction

Medusa by Jessie Burton

Exiled to a far-flung island after being abused by powerful Gods, Medusa has little company other than the snakes that adorn her head instead of hair. Haunted by the memories of a life before everything was stolen from her, she has no choice but to make peace with her present: Medusa the Monster. But when the charmed and beautiful Perseus arrives on the island, her lonely existence is blown apart, unleashing desire, love and betrayal.



Poetry

Love by Carol Ann Duffy

One of the English language's best-loved living poets arrays before us here, in chronological order, her favourites among her poems on the theme of love, drawing on work written over four decades, and she adds to her selection one new poem. It makes for a sequence that is sensual, stimulating, irresistible.



Pupil Recommendations



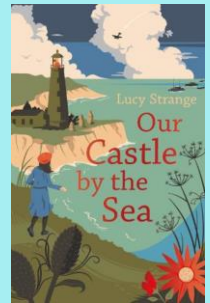
The Art of Being Normal by Lisa Williamson

Two outsiders. Two secrets. David longs to be a girl. Leo wants to be invisible. When Leo stands up for David in a fight, an unlikely friendship forms. But things are about to get messy. Because at Eden Park School, secrets have a funny habit of not staying secret for long . . .



Our Castle By the Sea by Lucy Strange

England is at war. Growing up in a lighthouse, Pet's world has been one of storms, secret tunnels and stories about sea monsters. But now the clifftops are a terrifying battleground, and her family is torn apart.



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.



The Chronicles Of Narnia by C.S. Lewis

The Chronicles of Narnia have enchanted millions of readers over the last fifty years and the magical events described in C.S. Lewis's immortal prose have left many a lasting memory for adults and children 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



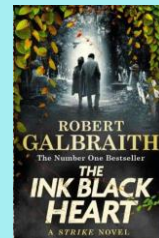
Ms. Nicholson recommends: *A Man Called Ove* by Frederik Backman

The million-copy bestselling phenomenon, Frederik Backman's heart-warming debut is a funny, moving, uplifting tale of love and community that will leave you with a spring in your step.



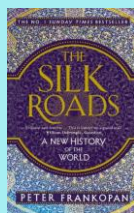
Ms. Barraclough recommends: *The Ink Black Heart* by Robert Galbraith

When frantic, dishevelled Edie Ledwell appears in the office begging to speak to her, private detective Robin Ellacott doesn't know quite what to make of the situation. The co-creator of a popular cartoon, *The Ink Black Heart*, Edie is being persecuted by a mysterious online figure who goes by the pseudonym of Anomie.



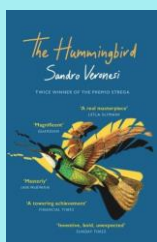
Dr. Leatherland recommends: *The Silk Roads: A New History of The World* by Peter Frankopan

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.'



Miss. Bolland recommends: *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.



Mr. Wallace recommends: *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.

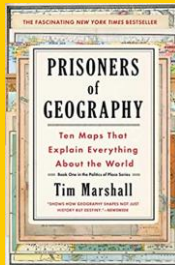


House recommendation: Cuthbert

House Captain

Mr O'Boyle recommends:
Prisoners of Geography by Tim Marshall

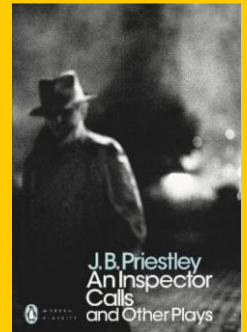
This is an excellent book which explores the geographic factors which have influenced many countries history, politics and economies. I particularly enjoyed reading about how the world's two most populous countries (India and China) contrast so strongly but have managed to avoid serious conflict for far more of their history than would be expected, given their close proximity.



House Prefect

Neve recommends: *An Inspector Calls* by J.B Priestley

A policeman interrupts a rich family's dinner to question them about the suicide of a young working-class girl. As their guilty secrets are gradually revealed over the course of the evening, 'An Inspector Calls', J. B. Priestley's most famous play, shows us the terrible consequences of poverty and inequality.



House Pupil

Sammy recommends: *Sixteen Souls* by Rosie Talbot

This is an enjoyable read because the book is filled with suspense and mystery. It explores different types of ghosts, and it combines old ghost myths with modern day ideas. Set in the historic city of York, there are many characters of ghosts located in the city, showing us York's rich past. Since York is near by it helps to keep the book feel real despite being supernatural. A good read.



What would they read?

Wednesday



Wednesday

The Edgar Allan Poe Collection by Edgar Allan Poe

Mysterious, morbid and undeniably fascinating, the tales collected here are a perfect introduction to America's master of horror. A perfect choice for Wednesday!



Tyler

The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson

Brimming with Gothic unease, *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* is a chilling slice of Victorian psychological horror. This one would definitely be up Hyde's street.



Enid

Wolf Girl by Jo Loring- Fisher

Meet Sophy. Much like Enid, Sophy, the young girl whose extraordinary adventure with a real wolf helps her discover her inner confidence.



Ms Thornhill

Botanical by Samuel Zeller

As a botanical teacher herself, this would definitely be a much-loved addition to Ms Thornhill's book shelf.



Morticia and Gomez Adams

The Dead Romantics by Ashley Poston

You can imagine this being a fast favourite of Morticia and Gomez. A perfect read for those dark and stormy nights.



Thing

British Sign Language: Teach Yourself by Paul Redfern

A perfect choice for Thing. Learn everyday, useful BSL that has been applied to real-life situations with hundreds of illustrations to help.

Local Libraries

This month's local library is another digital gem.

'The Online Books Page' boasts an impressive three million titles from a range of authors- from Shakespeare to Austen.

Whether you are looking for something different to read, or want to brush up on your knowledge before you start studying it in class, this website is perfect for you.

The page was originally founded in 1993 and has grown ever since. It works in collaboration with a number of different online libraries including 'Project Gutenberg' and 'HathiTrust', as well as a selection of international universities as well.

Even better, there are no subscription fees and all information on the site is totally free of charge. Happy reading!

The Online Books Page



First liners



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

1. I write this sitting in the kitchen sink.

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. Mother died today. Or yesterday; I can't be sure.

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

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

9. It was the day my grandmother exploded.



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

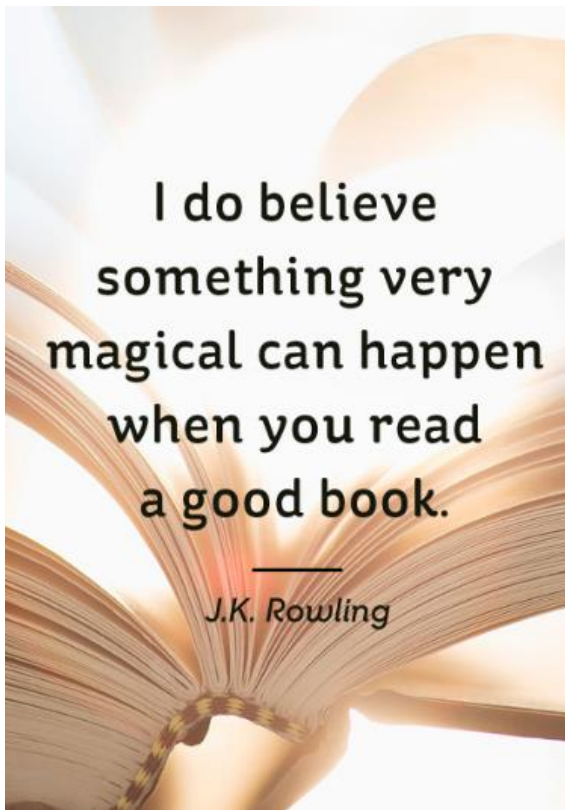
Year 9

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 J.K. Rowling:



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. I Capture the Castle by Dodie Smith
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. The Outsider by Albert Camus
7. Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston
8. The Go-Between by L.P. Hartley
9. The Crow Road by Iain Banks

