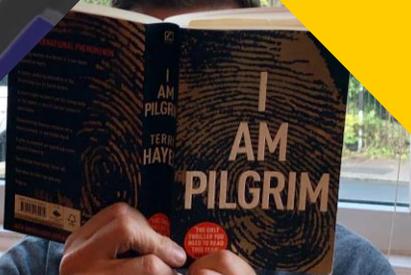




# IAN RAMSEY CE ACADEMY

Together to learn, to grow, to serve

# Reading Newsletter



# this MONTH in history

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1886: Harriet Beecher Stowe dies.	1778: Jean-Jacques Rousseau dies.	1937: Tom Stoppard is born.	1804: Nathaniel Hawthorne is born.	1991: Howard Nemerov dies.	1937: Bessie Head is born.	1816: Richard Brinsley Sheridan dies.
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
2014: <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> is released as an e-book for the first time.	1936: June Jordan is born.	1931: Alice Munro is born.	1952: Robert R. McCammon is born.	1904: Pablo Neruda is born.	1934: Wole Soyinka is born.	1903: Irving Stone is born.
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
1919: Iris Murdoch is born.	1985: Heinrich Boell dies.	1902: Christina Stead is born.	1918: Nelson Mandela is born.	1908: Ernest Buckler is born.	1933: Cormac McCarthy is born.	1796: Robert Burns dies.
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
1990: Manuel Puig dies.	1888: Raymond Chandler is born.	1991: Isaac Bashevis Singer dies.	1834: Samuel Taylor Coleridge dies.	1939: Ford Madox Ford dies.	1916: Elizabeth Hardwick is born.	1866: Beatrix Potter is born.
29	30	31				
1905: Stanley Kunitz is born.	1818: Emily Brontë is born.	1965: J. K. Rowling is born.				

# JULY

# 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

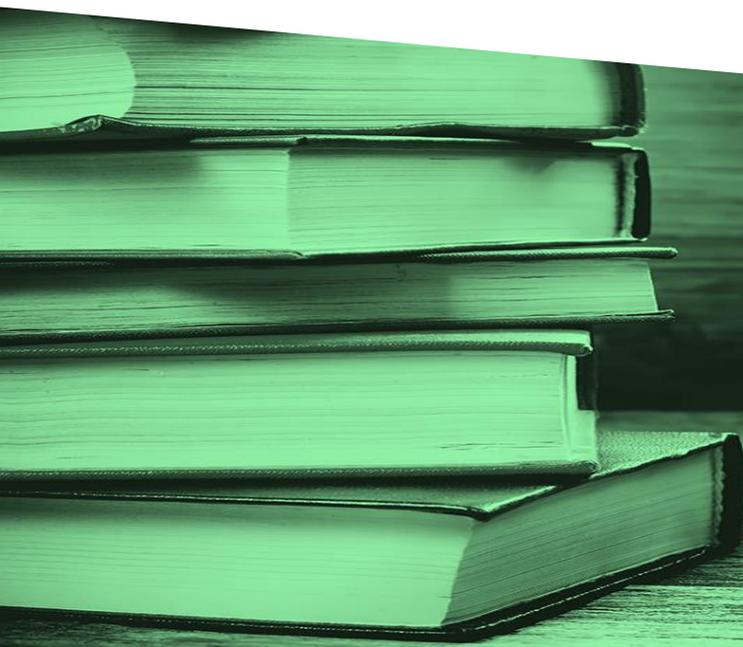
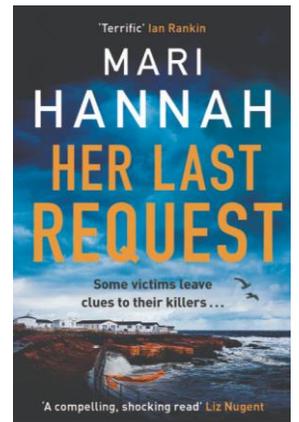
## This month's author: Mari Hannah

Mari Hannah is a multi-award-winning author whose authentic voice is no happy accident.

A former probation officer, she lives in rural Northumberland with her partner, an ex-murder detective. Mari turned to script-writing when her career was cut short following an assault on duty.

Her debut, *The Murder Wall* (adapted from a script she developed with the BBC), won her the Polari First Book Prize. Its follow-up, *Settled Blood*, picked up a Northern Writers' award.

Her Kate Daniels series is in development with Stephen Fry's production company, Sprout Pictures. Mari's body of work won her the CWA Dagger in the Library 2017, an incredible honour to receive so early on in her career. In 2019, she was Chair for Theakston Old Peculier Crime Writing Festival and was awarded the Diva Wordsmith of the Year.



# Author to Academy



Hello Ian Ramsey CE Academy,

I wish I was meeting you in person to talk about what reading means to me and why it should matter to everyone. First, I have a confession to make. As a child, I didn't enjoy English at school. Please don't tell Mrs Chapman-Jones. I might get detention! No, the reason I didn't like it was that I lacked the confidence to read aloud. Maths was my thing . . . and anything I could do in a school gymnasium. After I left school and got a job, two things happened: I met readers who wanted to share their love of books, telling me about their favourite authors. With nothing to contribute, I began to regret not paying more attention to language and how important storytelling is to all of us. You see, reading for pleasure isn't about sitting in a classroom analysing text, though that is important if you want to pass exams. For me, it's an escape from reality. I've learned so much about the world around me from books.

As a professional crime writer, it's my job to create thrillers that entertain and educate. It's like when you go to the movies, except in a book you draw the pictures in your own head, hopefully with your imagination in overdrive if I've done my job properly.

Reading and writing has opened up a world that I never thought possible. My job allows me to travel to faraway destinations. A few years ago, I was asked to take part in Mexico's first ever crime festival – now that was an education! Remember the girl that was too shy to read at school? Well, in Mexico, I had an audience of hundreds. Who knew I had it in me? I suppose my point is that reading gave me the skill to write, which had a knock-on effect – the confidence to share my work with others.

The only thing I like more than writing is entering a world that someone else has created, getting to know the characters, good and bad. And, if it's a crime novel, trying to guess whodunnit. When I'm engrossed in a well-told story, I can think of nothing else, because I'm immersed in that world until I reach the very last page, hopefully when chaos is replaced by order, the baddie gets his or her just deserts and I can breathe again.



# Author to Academy



The good news is this form of entertainment doesn't cost a bean if you use a library. In the ten years that I've been published, I've learned to hook my readers into stories where they feel part of murder investigations, as if they are happening in real time around them. My partner is an ex-murder detective, so I know a thing or two about how that works. For me, putting the puzzle together is what I love, keeping up the pace and tension, turning the screw as I reach the conclusion and creating a thrilling finale.

So, if any of you have aspirations to write professionally, reading the competition is the way to go. There's a world of amazing stories out there. I hope my letter has encouraged you to seek them out.

Happy reading everyone.

Mari Hannah

Website: [www.marihannah.com](http://www.marihannah.com)

Twitter: @mariwriter



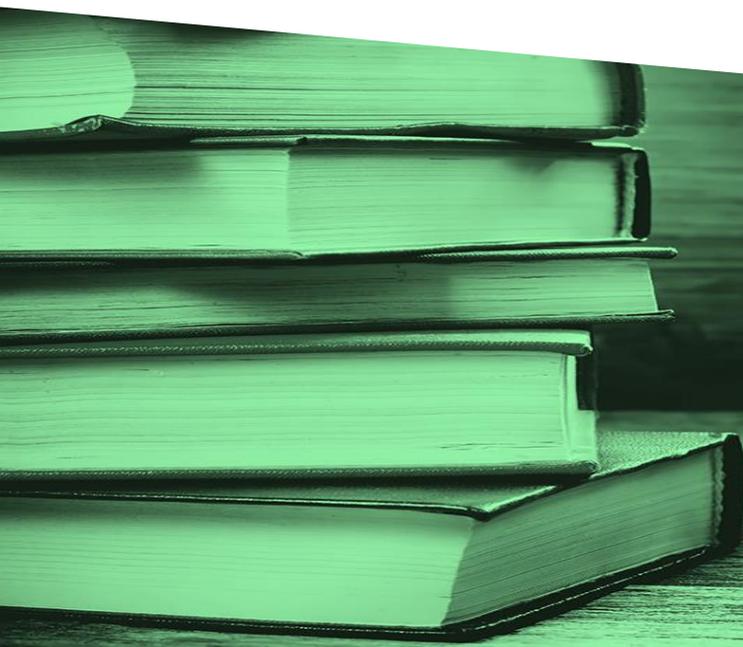
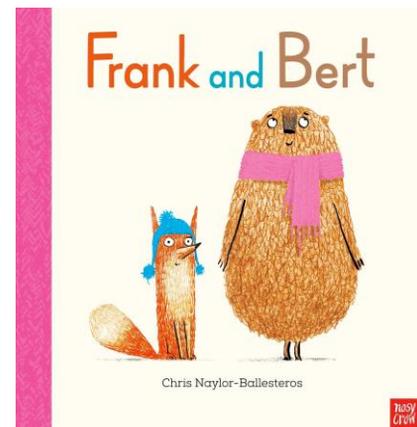
# Author spotlight

## This month's author: Chris Naylor-Ballesteros.

Chris is originally from Bradford and studied illustration and graphic design at Bradford College of Art. In 2000 he moved to France where, amongst other things, he was an English teacher before working in newspaper layout and design.

When his children were small he realised he loved the picture books he read to them, sometimes even more than his children did – the Picture Book Bug had truly bitten. Chris has since written and illustrated several books and is currently thinking about the next one, probably with a cuppa in hand at home near Limoges.

He likes listening to and making music, wandering around the countryside, a bit of running and riding a bike. His favourite season is autumn and his favourite colour is green.



# Author to Academy



Hello to everyone at Ian Ramsey CE Academy,

I was born and grew up in Bradford in West Yorkshire but I've lived in France for over twenty years. *Bonjour* from over here. I still visit and love the north of England very much though.

For about ten years I've been writing and illustrating childrens' picture books and getting them published. Though I can't quite believe it, I'm now fifty years old which means I didn't start doing this until I was nearly forty. I'm a late starter I suppose, but I got there (or am still getting there) in the end.

I've always thought it'd be really great to know exactly what you want to do with your life before you're even out of nappies or primary school and then head non-stop for that goal like a hungry terrier going for a flying sausage.

But the thing is, even if you have an idea about what you want to do, life sometimes refuses to follow your plans, no matter how sensible and sure they seem. Up to when I was about fourteen or fifteen I was a good student and was certain to go to sixth form, then go to university to learn loads of stuff, become officially clever and then get an amazing, creative and interesting job. And guess what?

Nope - none of it happened. Around about that time my concentration, studies and grades started to get a bit worse and, for some fairly normal reasons that lots of young people and teenagers experience, I lost quite a bit of motivation and confidence. It's just like that sometimes. To cut a long story short I left school half-way through my A-levels and went and got a quite boring, not very creative job in an office. This wasn't a major disaster but also wasn't part of any plan I'd had. And looking back I really do wish I could've concentrated a bit more and tried to do better in those last few years at school. Maybe I could've asked for a bit more guidance or support from my schoolteachers. In any case it just wasn't to be.



# Author to Academy



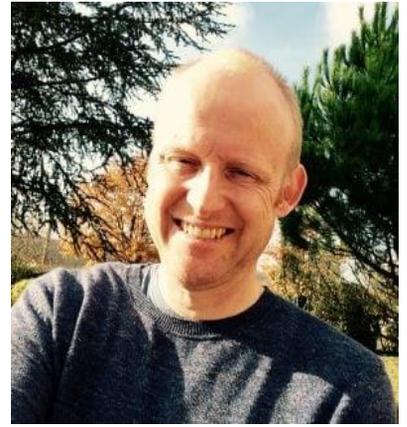
All the while I always liked reading. I would read just about anything, good books and not-so-good books, comics, magazines and even all the endless album sleeve notes printed in tiny lettering on my favourite record sleeves. And I'd always liked drawing, so a year before I moved to France (and already nearly thirty years old) I enrolled on an illustration and graphic design course at Bradford College. I started off worrying I'd be the oldest, creakiest, crankiest and most useless artist in the class. But I wasn't. There were at least three people even older than me (I counted them) and I also found I was pretty good with the pencils and paint. No, not the paint - painting is hard and still drives me a bit crackers. Anyway, I loved the course and it gave my confidence a big boost.

Then away I went to France, which had also never been part of any life plan I'd imagined. By the way, fifteen years earlier, I'd dropped French at GCSE level because I thought 'when will I ever need French?'. So think twice before you decide foreign languages aren't for you. You might end up living in a foreign country and wish you were fourteen instead of forty when you'd had to learn to say "Good morning Monsieur, how are you? I am also fine, thank you. Could you please tell me where the Post Office is and what time it closes?" C'est un très bon conseil, d'accord ?

After a few years in France and getting married I got a job at a newspaper doing page-layouts and graphic design and occasionally cartoons. I loved that too, it was a good, busy, teamworking sort of job. Then that ended and I had to find another job (I got another boring one this time) and by now we had two children. I read a lot of picture books to them and I thought "Oooh, I really like these (the books - not the kids. I mean, I liked my kids too, obviously). I'll have a go at making one!" So that's how my 'proper job' started. It seems strange now to think it took so long to realise I should have a go at that, but there we go. Life can lead you on a bit of a wild goose chase and take ages to get to the point (a bit like what you're reading right now is doing).



# Author to Academy



So cast your mind back to Chapter Three and imagine you are that sprightly terrier again and imagine seeing someone throw that flying sausage for you again. Well, who knows... you might, in fact, feel that sausages are over-rated and just not worth chasing after and snaffling all the time. Or you might be a vegetarian terrier and the very thought of a sausage make you feel a bit iffy. Or you might go after the sausage but miss it at the last second because you saw something else out of the corner of your eye that looked quite tasty - like an unattended chop or an abandoned burger. Or just before you get your gnashers around the sausage you realise you weren't actually that hungry and didn't really fancy a sausage after all. Or (last one, promise), just because you're a terrier and everyone always thinks "Ooh throw them a sausage, they love sausages!", you decide that enough is enough and you break the sausage-loving terrier cliché by refusing to leap entertainingly into the air to devour a delicious but short-lived treat.

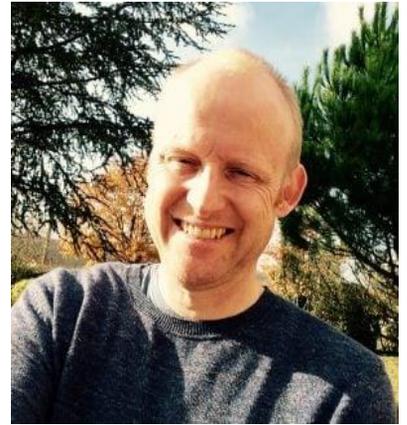
All this sausage stuff is a metaphor. Or a simile. Or is it an analogy? I've forgotten. Check with your english teacher and let me know. In any case I strongly believe that if you think of life goals in terms of flying sausages you can't go far wrong\*.

Time for a list. Try to figure out:

- 1 - what things make you happy
- 2 - what you could be or are good at and
- 3 - a commercially viable nuclear fusion-powered electricity generator



# Author to Academy



And if there's something that covers all three (or at least the first two - the third one is a big ask but I'd committed to a list and just two things aren't really a list) then try to do that and yes, try to do it sooner rather than later but don't panic if you take a bit of an unplanned detour along the way and you miss the flying sausage and the neighbour's cat scoffs it and then sits up on the garden fence licking it's self-satisfied lips and going "Mmm... lovely sausage, you daft dog". Ignore it. You know where there's a pile of abandoned burgers.

All the best,  
Chris Naylor-Ballesteros

*\*If I'm honest it's not that strong a belief at all - it's just a dog/flying-sausage metaphor. Or a simile or an analogy, see above.*

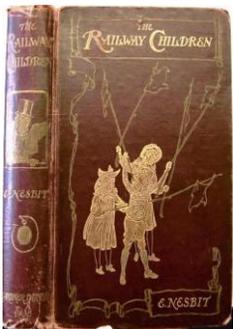
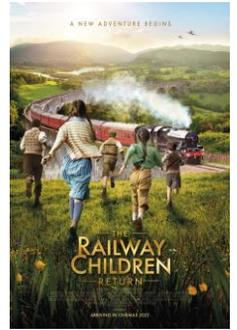


# From page to screen

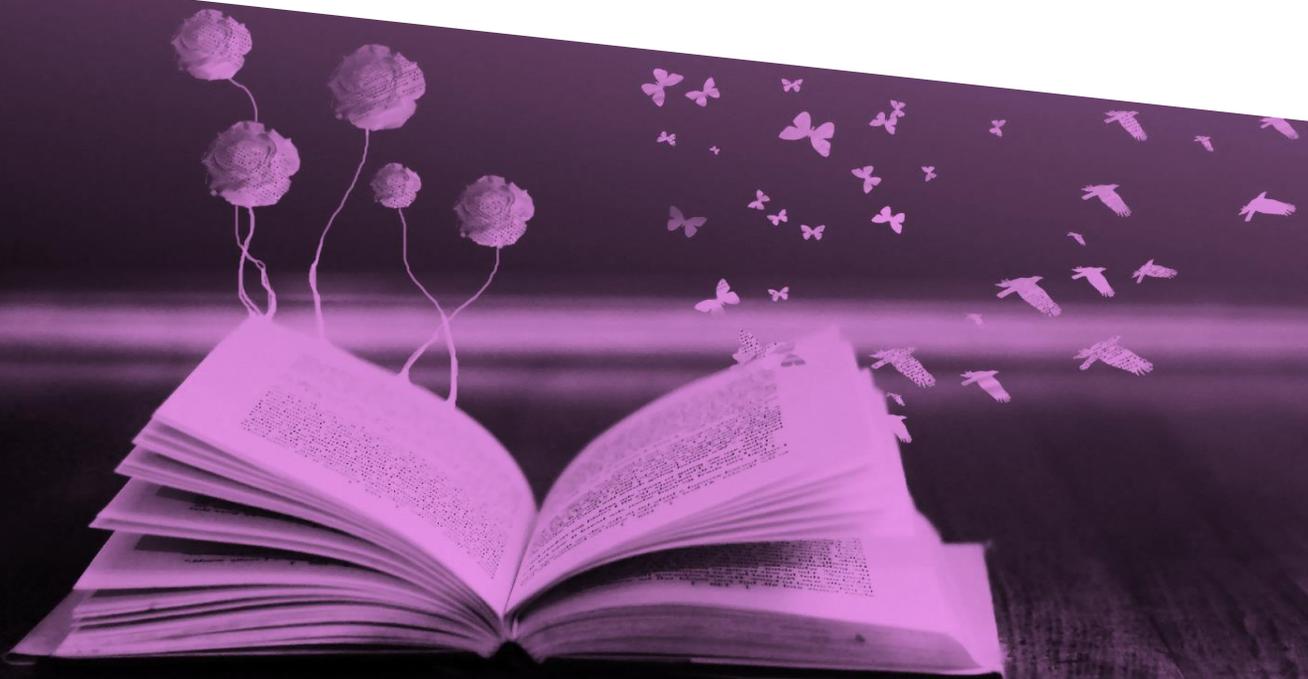


This month's From Page to Screen is Edith Nesbit's *The Railway Children Return*.

Follow a group of children who are evacuated to a Yorkshire village during the Second World War, where they encounter a young soldier who, like them, is far away from home.



Based on the best-selling novel by Edith Nesbit, the film revisits the three children who became a household name for British literature and television in the 1970s. A perfect fit for anyone who is looking for a fun family drama over the summer.





By reading just 20 minutes per day, you will actually end up reading 1.8 Million words in one year.

Reading before bed helps people fall asleep quicker and easier. Leafing through a book instead of scrolling through your phone on a night will make a massive difference!

Feel like a workout? Reading is like cardio for your brain. It brings existing neural pathways to life and keeps your brain elastic and active.

Studies have shows that reading helps reduce blood pressure and lowers the heart rate. Good for the mind, body and soul!



# 2022 Reading Challenge

- A book with more than 500 pages
- A classic romance
- A book that became a movie
- A book published this year
- A book with a number in the title
- A book written by someone under 30
- A book with nonhuman characters
- A funny book
- A book by a female author
- A mystery or thriller
- A book with a one-word title
- A book of short stories
- A book set in a different country
- A nonfiction book
- A popular author's first book
- A book from an author you love that you haven't read yet
- A book a friend recommended
- A Pulitzer Prize-winning book
- A book based on a true story
- A book at the bottom of your to-read list
- A book your mom loves
- A book that scares you
- A book more than 100 years old
- A book based entirely on its cover
- A book you were supposed to read in school but didn't
- A memoir
- A book you can finish in a day
- A book with antonyms in the title
- A book set somewhere you've always wanted to visit
- A book that came out the year you were born
- A book with bad reviews
- A trilogy
- A book from your childhood
- A book with a love triangle
- A book set in the future
- A book set in high school
- A book with a color in the title
- A book that made you cry
- A book with magic
- A graphic novel
- A book by an author you've never read before
- A book you own but have never read
- A book that takes place in your hometown
- A book that was originally written in a different language
- A book set during Christmas
- A book written by an author with your same initials
- A play
- A banned book
- A book based on or turned into a TV show
- A book you started but never finished

# What's new?

## Non-fiction

*The Nineties: A Book*  
by Chuck Klosterman

An exploration of one of the most turbulent eras. Looking at everything from politics to pop culture, Klosterman's work details the revolution that we are still trying to understand. Seen by some as a 'multi-dimensional masterpiece', this is now one to miss.



## Fiction

*This Time Tomorrow* by  
Emma Straub

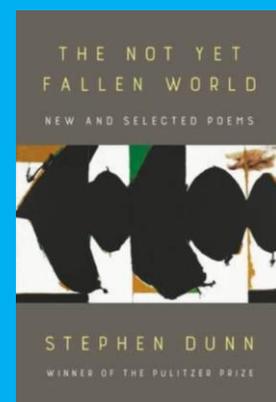
Alice's has been taking care of her ailing father in hospital. Until a chance encounter leaves her to be transported to her childhood home on her sixteenth birthday.



## Poetry

*The Not Yet Fallen World* by Stephen Dunn

Dunn's graceful poems confront our contradictions with tenderness and wit, enliven the ordinary with penetrating observation, and alert us to the haunting wonders and relationships that surround us.

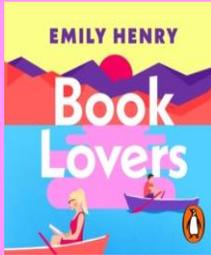


# Pupil Recommendations: Y8



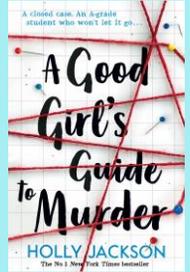
## *Book Lovers* by Emily Henry

Nova is a literary agent, her whole life is books. Charlie is a book editor. When Nova keeps bumping into Charlie in Sunshine Falls, she figures there must be a reason.



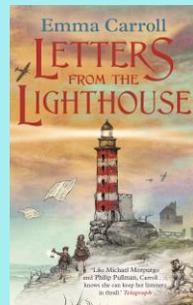
## *A Good Girls Guide to Murder* by Holly Jackson

For readers of Kara Thomas and Karen McManus, an addictive, twisty crime thriller with shades of 'Serial' and 'Making a Murderer' about a closed local murder case that doesn't add up.



## *Letters from the Lighthouse* by Emma Carroll

February, 1941. 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.



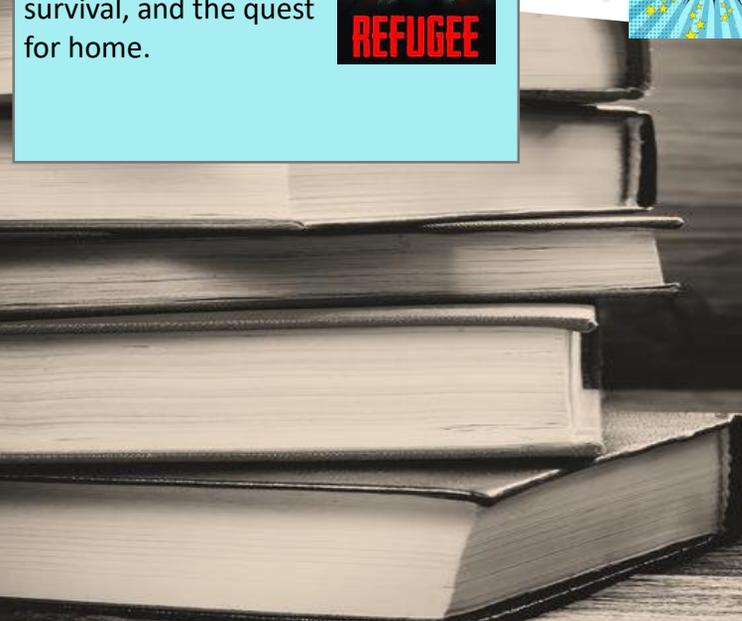
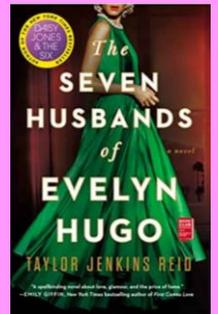
## *Refugee* by Alan Gratz

This action-packed novel tackles topics both timely and timeless: courage, survival, and the quest for home.



## *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* by Taylor Jenkins Reid

Aging and reclusive Hollywood movie icon Evelyn Hugo is finally ready to tell the truth about her glamorous and scandalous life



# Staff Recommendations



Mrs. Chapman- Jones recommends:  
*It Ends with Us* by Colleen Hoover

A beautifully written, deceptively easy read with a dark plot and a heart-breaking twists and turns. Well worth a read.



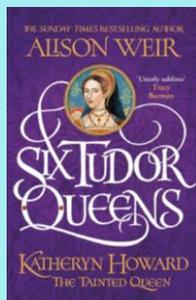
Mrs. Poppleton recommends:  
*Neverwhere* by Neil Gaiman

The plot revolves around a young businessman called Richard Mayhew, who randomly helps a mysterious girl on the street.



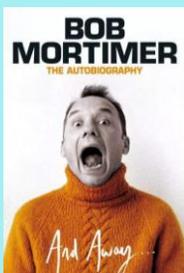
Mrs. Bullen recommends:  
*Katheryn Howard, the Tainted Queen*

This book is quite fast paced from the start, her life veers from one episode to another - death, misfortune, romance, heart-break, ignorance, deception, fear and shame. Katheryn was only 18 or 19 years old when she was tried for treason and sentenced to death.



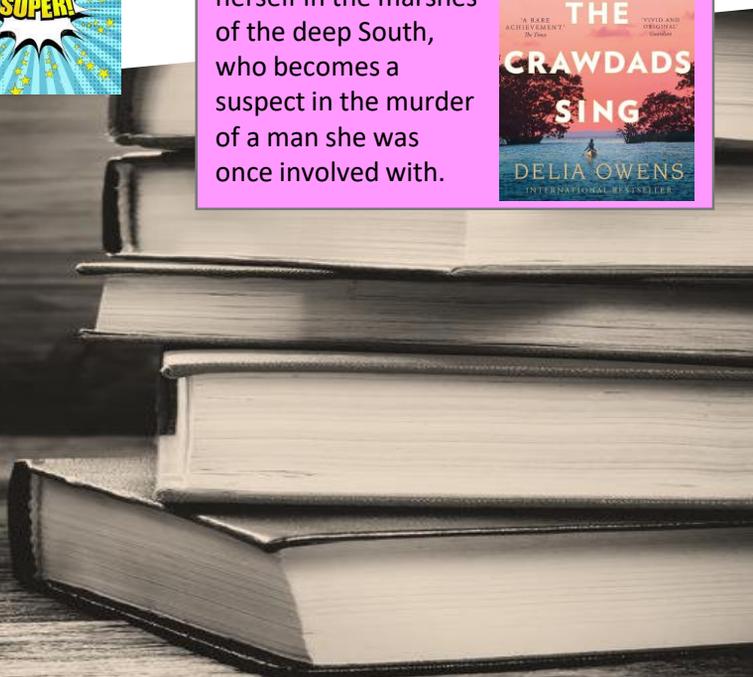
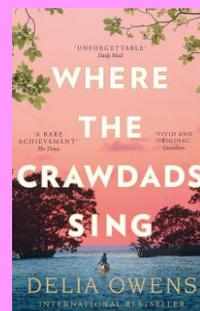
Mr. Wallace recommends:  
*And Away* by Bob Mortimer

A poignant autobiography from a boy from Middlesborough who went south for a career of normality and ended up as an alternative comedian. Humorous and heartfelt in equal measure.



Miss. Bolland recommends  
*Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens

A hard-hitting story of a woman who raised herself in the marshes of the deep South, who becomes a suspect in the murder of a man she was once involved with.



# Local Libraries

## Open Library

If you're looking for a library at your fingertips, look no further. Open Library has a vast selection of books, ranging from fantasy novels to revision guides.

Open Library provides digital copies in multiple formats, created from images of many out-of-print, and in-print books.

Keep track of your favourite book or try the virtual library explorer. There really is something for everyone.



# First liners



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

1. Rufus, I regret to inform you that sometime in the next twenty-three hours you'll be meeting an untimely death.

2. The summer she was fifteen, Melanie discovered she was made of flesh and blood

3. Emma Woodhouse, handsome, clever and rich, with a comfortable home and happy disposition seemed to unite some of the best blessings of existence and had lived nearly twenty-one years in the world with very little to distress or vex her.

4. I am an invisible man.

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

6. When Mary Lennox was sent to Misselthwaite Manor to live with her uncle everybody said she was the most disagreeable-looking child ever seen.

7. Mr. and Mrs. Dursley of number four, Privet Drive, were proud to say that they were perfectly normal, thank you very much.

8. 124 was spiteful. Like Baby's venom.

9. I write this sitting in the kitchen sink.



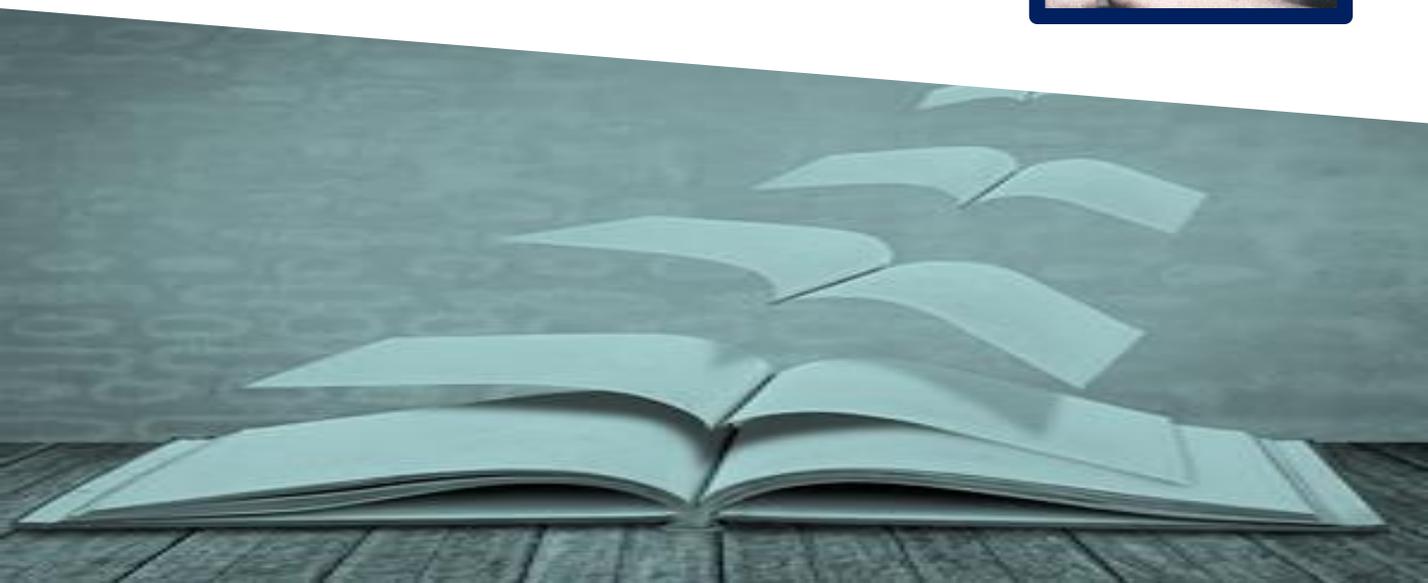
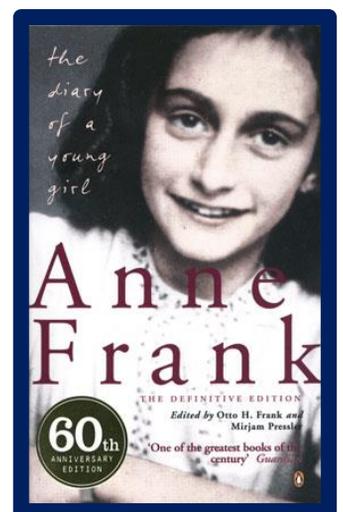
# A Good REad

Mrs Craven has begun a new book club for pupils. Unfortunately, numbers are limited, but she would like to recommend an RE linked book to all parents and pupils each month, supporting our whole school Christian Ethos. This month's recommendation is:

*The Diary of a Young Girl*  
by Anne Frank

On 25<sup>th</sup> June 1947, Anne Frank's diary was published for the first time in the Netherlands. 75 years later and Anne Frank's diary continues to provide one of the most significant insights into Jewish life under the Nazi regime.

In 1942, with the Nazis occupying Holland, a thirteen-year-old Jewish girl and her family fled their home in Amsterdam and went into hiding. For the next two years, until their whereabouts were betrayed to the Gestapo, the Franks and another family lived cloistered in the "Secret Annex" of an old office building. Cut off from the outside world, they faced hunger, boredom, the constant cruelties of living in confined quarters, and the ever-present threat of discovery and death. In her diary Anne Frank recorded vivid impressions of her experiences during this period. By turns thoughtful, moving, and surprisingly humorous, her account offers a fascinating commentary on human courage and frailty and a compelling self-portrait of a sensitive and spirited young woman whose promise was tragically cut short.



# Word of the Month

## Quibble

(Origin: Latin)

To quibble is to complain about small, unimportant things.

*Quibble* is most familiar as a verb, but it can also function as a noun meaning "an evasion of or shift from the point" and "a minor objection or criticism." Both forms of 'quibble' settled into English in the mid-17th century, presumably (though not definitively) as a diminutive of a now-obsolete noun 'quib', meaning 'quibble.' 'Quib' in turn may have come from a form of Latin 'qui', meaning 'who,' a distant relation also of our word 'who'.

The verb form of the word was first used in the late 1600's, with the noun came into use as early as 1650.



# 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 Annie Dillard:

**She read books  
as one would  
breathe air, to  
fill up and live.**

—  
*Annie Dillard*



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 July's newsletter and look forward to sending you August's edition!

\*Answers to First Lines:

1. They Both Die at the End by Adam Silvera.
2. The Magic Toyshop by Angela Carter
3. Emma by Jane Austen
4. Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison
5. 1984 by George Orwell
6. The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett
7. Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone by J.K Rowling
8. Beloved by Toni Morrison
9. I Capture the Castle by Dodi Smith

