



# IAN RAMSEY CE ACADEMY

Together to learn, to grow, to serve

# Reading Newsletter



# this MONTH in history

1	1838 Colleen McCullough is born.	1840 Thomas Hardy is born.	1913 William Inge is born.	1940 Robin Cook is born.	1958 James Branch Cabell dies.	1940 John Steinbeck wins a Pulitzer for <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> .	1931 Gene Wolfe is born.
8	1880 Gustave Flaubert dies.	1860 J. M. Barrie is born.	1933 Barbara Taylor Bradford is born.	2001 Douglas Adams dies.	1925 Amy Lowell dies.	1907 Daphne Du Maurier is born.	1912 August Strindberg dies.
15	1886 Emily Dickinson dies.	1905 H. E. Bates is born.	1905 John Patrick is born.	1908 Ian Fleming is born.	1930 Lorraine Hansberry is born.	1799 Honoré de Balzac is born.	1688 Alexander Pope is born.
22	1859 Arthur Conan Doyle is born.	1958 Mitch Albom is born.	1905 Mikhail Sholokhov is born.	1803 Ralph Waldo Emerson is born.	1916 Walker Percy is born.	1867 Arnold Bennett is born.	2014 Maya Angelou dies at age 86.
29	1938 Ron Milner is born.	1593 Christopher Marlowe dies.	1819 Walt Whitman is born.	31	30	30	31

# M A Y

# Welcome

Welcome to our May 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

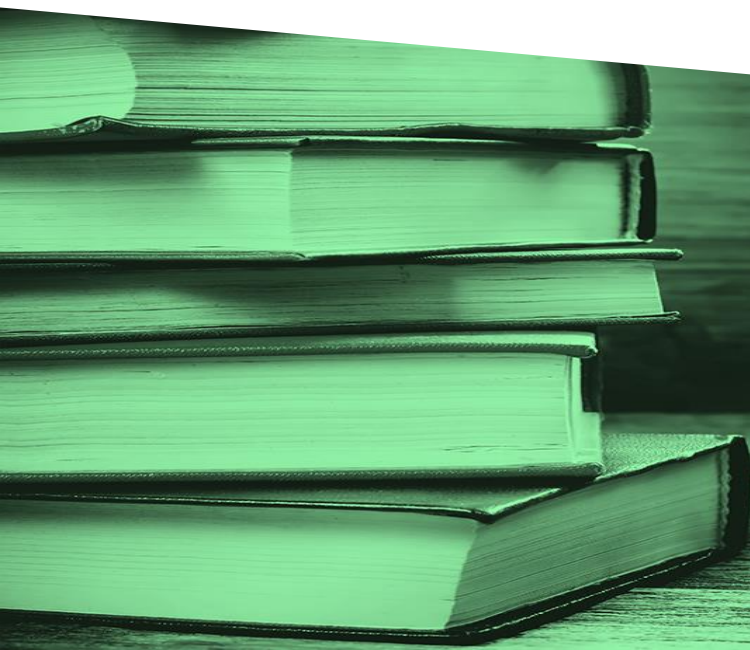
This month's author:

**Rachel Faturoti**



Specialising in YA and children's fiction, this month's spotlight is on the wonderful Rachel Faturoti. Much of Faturoti's work centres around mythology and fantasy and she believes in the importance of fair representation for all.

Her first children's book *Sade and the Shadow Beasts* is available from July and looks at how a young girl copes with tragedy and overcomes her fears of the unknown.



# Author to academy

Dear pupils at Ian Ramsey CE Academy,

My name is Rachel and I want to thank you for taking the time to read this letter! I'm an author, poet, editor and screenwriter. My first children's book is *SADÉ AND HER SHADOW BEASTS* and it is illustrated by Rumbidzai Savanhu (Rumbi).

Sadé is struggling to cope after her mum passes away. She escapes into an imaginary world filled with purple candy-floss skies, fantastic creatures and rapping roses. But she soon discovers there are scary shadow beasts living in her world too and the more anxious Sadé feels, the more the beasts seep into the real world. Sadé must find her voice to banish the beasts for good!

When I write, I create fantastical worlds from what I see around me. If you're ever stuck on what to write, look around you and use your five senses. The world is full of possibilities! Write about what you know and love. Do you like games, trains or planes? There is a writer and reader in all of you!

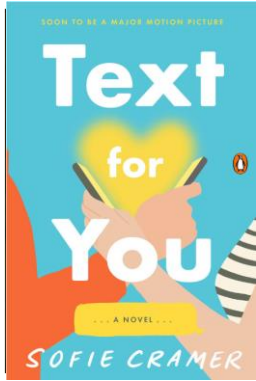
Happy reading!

*Rachel Faturoti*



Art by Rumbidzai Savanhu

# From page to screen



After the death of her fiancée, a young woman tries to cope with the loss by sending texts to his old number, until one day, she receives a response.



Due to be released this month, *Love Again* is a heart-warming romantic comedy about finding yourself amid moments of grief.



LOVE AGAIN  
UN PEU, BEAUCOUP, PASSIONNÉMENT



Based on Sofie Cramer's 2022 novel *Text For You*, this is a perfect watch for any one needing a good tear-jerker!





## ? DID YOU KNOW ?

Hugh Beaver managed Guinness Breweries in the 1950s went to a shooting party in County Wexford, where he missed his shot at a golden plover. In contrast, he argued it was the fastest game bird in Europe but consequently couldn't find a reference book that proved it. That's why Hugh Beaver created the Guinness Book of Records.

The word "bestseller" for books was first used in *Fools of Nature* by Alice Brown in 1889. Furthermore, Alice Brown was an American novelist, poet, playwright, and best known as a writer of local colour stories. Alice Brown was born on December 5, 1857, and passed away on June 21, 1948, at the age of 91.

The Klencke Atlas is one of the largest books on Earth. Moreover, The Klencke Atlas is a unique work without other copies, the book measures 1.75 meters tall, and 1.90 meters wide when it is open. Consequently, it is so heavy that almost 6 to 7 people need to carry the book.

The word 'bookworm' originated from insects who live in and eat the binding of books. Likewise, the larvae of various types of insects inclusive of moths, cockroaches, and beetles may chew and devour the books literally.



# 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

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The  
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[www.the52bookclub.com](http://www.the52bookclub.com)





# May Reading Challenge

## My Reading Challenge May Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01 An autobiography of a musician	02 A short story	03 A book recommended by a parent	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 another country	10 A book recommended by a teacher	11 A new release	12 About positivity	13 A local author	14 A true story
15 About friendship	16 A book set in the rainforest	17 A book set in the future	18 A newspaper article	19 A comic strip	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.

# Young Writers

## **THE POWER OF POETRY** **POETRY COMPETITION FOR 11-18 YEAR-OLDS**

### Young Writers Poetry Competition

Explore the power of poetry by writing a poem about something you are passionate about. Will you write about a change you want to see in the world, your hopes and dreams or be inspired by what you value the most?

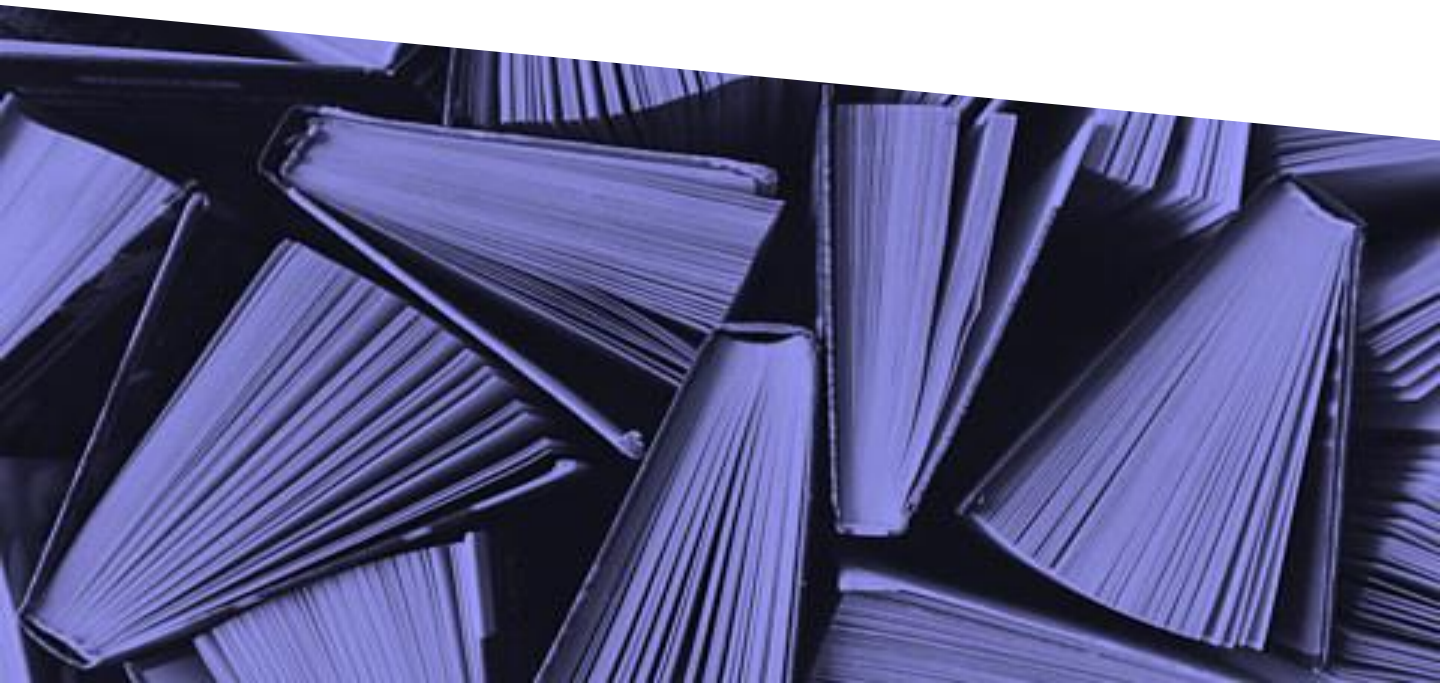
This is a great opportunity for you to voice what matters to you and the opportunity to be published offers you a new purpose and audience for your writing.

This could be about anything! If you need a little extra motivation, there are some fantastic prizes up for grabs. The top 4 poets will each win £50 and a trophy plus the winning school receives the Young Writes Award of Excellence and a £100 book token.

The competition is open to all year groups and the closing date is Tuesday May 25<sup>th</sup>.

To get involved, please see Miss Bolland (207) or email [bollande@ianramsey.org.uk](mailto:bollande@ianramsey.org.uk)

Happy writing!

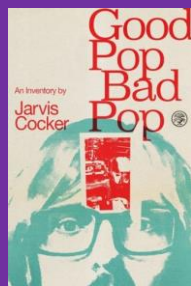


# What's new?

## Non-fiction:

*Good Pop, Bad Pop* by Jarvis Cocker

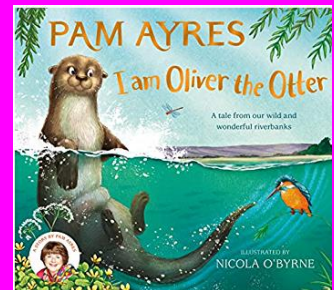
Told with all of Jarvis Cocker's distinctive dry wit, *Good Pop, Bad Pop* finds the Pulp frontman clearing out his loft and taking an inventory of the ephemera that formed his eventful, iconic life.



## Fiction

*I am Oliver the Otter: A Tale from our Riverbanks Wild and Wonderful* by Pam Ayres

Poetic national treasure Pam Ayres teams up with popular illustrator Nicola O'Byrne for this delightful rhyming picture book all about the eponymous otter and the very special friend he makes on the riverbank.



## Poetry

*West: A Translation* by Paisley Rekdal

In 2018, Utah Poet Laureate Paisley Rekdal was commissioned by the Spike 150 Foundation to write a poem commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the transcontinental railroad's completion. The result is *West: A Translation*: a linked collection of poems that respond to a Chinese elegy carved into the walls of the Angel Island Immigration Station where Chinese migrants to the United States were detained.



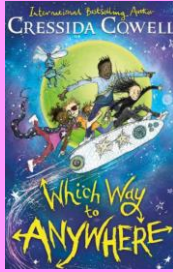
*West: A Translation*  
Paisley Rekdal

# Pupil Recommendations



## *Which Way to Anywhere* by Cressida Cowell

From former Waterstones Children's Laureate and author of the *How to Train Your Dragon* and *Wizards of Once* series comes a thrilling new series about a group of children who find the crossing points to other worlds.



## *Heartstopper Volume 5* by Alice Oseman

Boy meets boy. Boys become friends. Boys fall in love. The bestselling LGBTQ+ graphic novel about life, love, and everything that happens in between: this is the fifth volume of the *Heartstopper* series.



## *The Body in the Blitz* by Robin Stevens

The second compelling Second World War espionage thriller in the Ministry of Unladylike Activity series finds the freshly recruited child spies uncover a mysterious corpse in a bombed-out London home.



## *The Other Edie Trimmer* by Jaqueline Wilson

Edie is fascinated by Victorian times, and she's just desperate to be cast in the lead role of her drama club production of *Oliver*. When she's given a real Victorian notebook she's determined to write the best story ever, all about a girl in a workhouse. But when she starts writing, something strange happens.



## *Finding Bear* by Hannah Gold

The stunning sequel to Waterstones Children's Book Prize winner *The Last Bear*, Gold's exquisitely written and enthralling novel follows April's journey to Svalbard amidst rumours that her friend Bear has been shot.



# Staff Recommendations



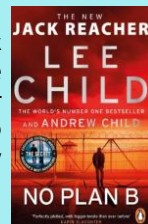
## *Death of a Book Seller* by Alice Slater

Roach - bookseller, loner and true crime obsessive - is not interested in making friends. She has all the company she needs in her serial killer books, murder podcasts and her pet snail, Bleep. That is, until Laura joins the bookshop.



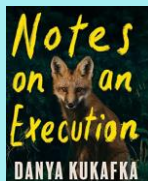
## *No Plan B - Jack Reacher* by Lee Child

The third scintillating Jack Reacher thriller co-written by Lee Child and his younger brother Andrew finds our charismatic hero probing the expansive conspiracy behind an apparent suicide.



## *Notes on an Execution* by Danya Kukafka

Ansel Packer is scheduled to die in twelve hours. He knows what he's done, and now awaits the same fate he forced on those girls, years ago. Ansel doesn't want to die; he wants to be celebrated, understood. But this is not his story.



## *A Slow Burning Fire* by Paula Hawkins

The author of the bestselling phenomenon *The Girl on the Train* returns with another white-knuckle thriller awash with unbearable suspense and jaw-dropping misdirection, as three women are brought into conflict through a brutal murder.



## *Sparring Partners* by John Grisham

A trio of gripping legal stories from the bestselling author of *The Judge's List* that features old favourite Jake Brigance alongside compelling new characters and engaging, unputdownable plotlines.



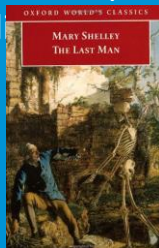


# House recommendation: Aidan

## Dr Leatherland (House Captain)

### *The Last Man* by Mary Shelley

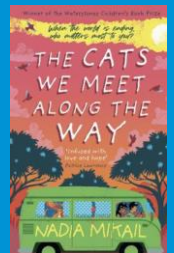
The Last Man by Mary Shelley gives a dystopian vision of the future in the 18th century. I found this interesting because it looks at the nature of human society. It stems from the death of Percy Bysshe Shelley and Byron's influence on him you get an idea of Shelley's resentment to Byron as she thought he had a negative impact on Percy Shelley's short



## House Prefect

### *The Cats We Meet Along the Way* by Nadia Mikail

With the world due to end imminently, Aisha and her brilliantly drawn family undertake an eventful road trip across Malaysia to find her estranged sister June in this blazingly original and wonderfully affecting debut.



## House Pupil

### *Jamie* by L.D Lapinski

Jamie Rambeau is a happy 11-year-old non-binary kid who likes nothing better than hanging out with their two best friends Daisy and Ash. But when the trio find out that in Year Seven they will be separated into one school for boys and another for girls, their friendship suddenly seems at risk.



# What would they read? Royal Edition

## King Charles: *Winnie the Pooh meets the King* by Jane Riordan

A charming tale from your favourite characters of Hundred Acre Wood. As he takes up his new role as King, this could be a lovely story for Charles to share with his grandchildren.



## Queen Consort Camilla: *Forever Home* by Graham Norton

As she settles into life in her new home, this might be a perfect read for our new Queen Consort for when she needs to put her feet up with a bit of dark comedy from the lovely Mr. Norton.



## Prince William: *The Lost Rainforests of Britain* by Guy Shrubsole

As Britain's chief environmentalist, this would be an ideal read for William. Shrubsole takes us through a chronicle of Britain's former rainforests, and gives inspiring ideas of how we might restore them to their former glory.



## Princess Catherine: *Happy Place* by Emily Henry

After all the commotion of the coronation, this could be a superb read for Kate to get her teeth into whilst everyone settles into their new roles.



## *Spare* by Prince Harry

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- 
- It is safe to say that every member of the royal family would have this on their book shelf. It is hard-hitting and, at times, does not paint the 'firm' in the best light.

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- With its raw, unflinching honesty, *Spare* is a landmark publication full of insight, revelation, self-examination, and hard-won wisdom about the eternal power of love over grief.



# Local Libraries

## FarFaria Stories

Boasting an impressive range of titles *FarFaria Stories* is a fantastic digital library that can be enjoyed by parents and young children alike.

The app offers a range of free books, with subscribers able to enjoy one free book a day. With a variety of material on there, there really is something for everyone.

The app allows you to read independently or have a story read to you. You can even watch videos alongside selected titles.

To see what *FarFaria* has to offer, download the app today or go to <https://www.farfaria.com/catalog>.



# First liners



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

1. The sun shone, having no alternative, on the nothing new.

2. Stately, plump Buck Mulligan came from the stairhead, bearing a bowl of lather on which a mirror and a razor lay crossed.

3. Through the fence, between the curling flower spaces, I could see them hitting.

4. 124 was spiteful.

5. Every summer Lin Kong returned to Goose Village to divorce his wife, Shuyu.

6. Mrs. Dalloway said she would buy the flowers herself.

7. There was a boy called Eustace Clarence Scrubb, and he almost deserved it.

8. He was an old man who fished alone in a skiff in the Gulf Stream and he had gone eighty-four days now without taking a fish.

9. We started dying before the snow, and like the snow, we continued to fall.



# Word of the Month

## Beltane

(Origin: Scottish Gaelic)

Beltane refers to the Celtic May Day Festival.

To the ancient Celts, May Day marked the start of summer, and a critical time when the boundaries between the human and supernatural worlds were removed, requiring that people take special measures to protect themselves against enchantments.

The Beltane fire festival originated in a summer ritual in which cattle were herded between two huge bonfires to protect them from evil and disease.



# 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

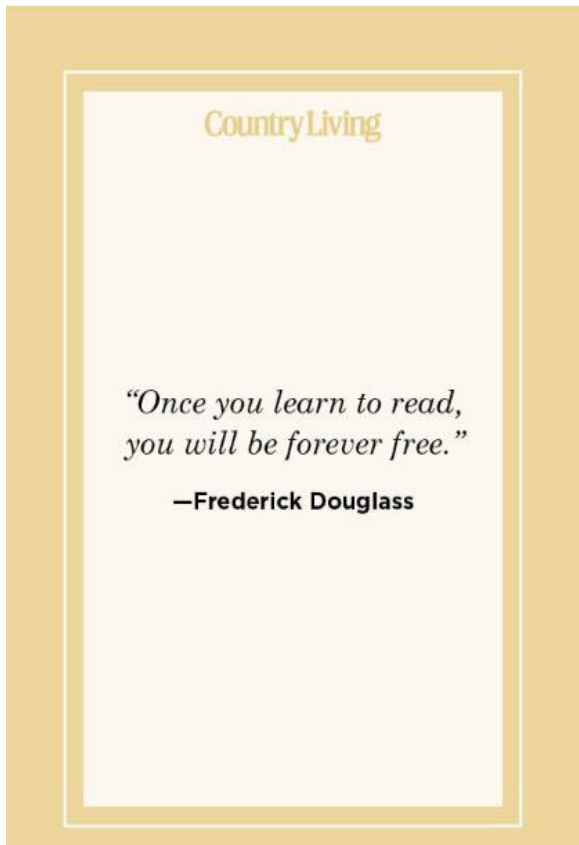
## Year 9

*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 May's newsletter and look forward to sending you June's edition!

\*Answers to First Lines:

1. *Murphy* by Samuel Beckett
2. *Ulysses* by James Joyce
3. *The Sound and The Fury* by William Falkner
4. *Beloved* by Toni Morrison
5. *Waiting* by Ha Jin
6. *Mrs Dalloway* by Virginia Woolf
7. *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* by C.S. Lewis
8. *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway
9. *Tracks* by Louise Erdrich

