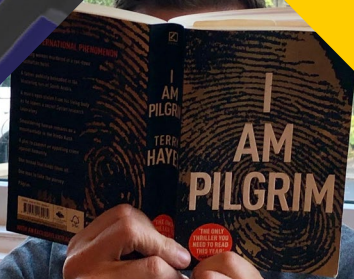




IAN RAMSEY CE ACADEMY

Together to learn, to grow, to serve

Reading Newsletter



this MONTH in history

N O V E M B E R

<u>1</u>	<u>1938</u> Nicholasa Mohr is born.	<u>2</u> <u>1950</u> Bernard Shaw dies.	<u>3</u> <u>1939</u> Terrence McNally is born.	<u>4</u> <u>1918</u> Wilfred Owen dies.	<u>5</u> <u>1975</u> Lionel Trilling dies.	<u>6</u> <u>1884</u> William Wells Brown dies.	<u>7</u> <u>1913</u> Albert Camus is born.
<u>8</u>	<u>1847</u> Abraham ("Bram") Stoker is born.	<u>9</u> <u>1923</u> James Schuyler is born.	<u>10</u> <u>1728</u> Oliver Goldsmith is born.	<u>11</u> <u>1922</u> Kurt Vonnegut Jr. is born.	<u>12</u> <u>1865</u> Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell dies.	<u>13</u> <u>1916</u> Henryk Sienkiewicz dies.	<u>14</u> <u>1947</u> P. J. O'Rourke is born.
<u>15</u>	<u>1877</u> William Hope Hodgson is born.	<u>16</u> <u>1895</u> Michael Arlen is born.	<u>17</u> <u>1992</u> Audre Lorde dies.	<u>18</u> <u>1939</u> Margaret Atwood is born.	<u>19</u> <u>1911</u> William Attaway is born.	<u>20</u> <u>1910</u> Leo Tolstoy dies.	<u>21</u> <u>1811</u> Heinrich von Kleist dies.
<u>22</u>	<u>1963</u> C. S. Lewis dies.	<u>23</u> <u>1990</u> Roald Dahl dies.	<u>24</u> <u>1713</u> Laurence Sterne is born.	<u>25</u> <u>1877</u> Harley Granville-Barker is born.	<u>26</u> <u>1905</u> Emlyn Williams is born.	<u>27</u> <u>1909</u> James Agee is born.	<u>28</u> <u>1757</u> William Blake is born.
<u>29</u>	<u>1832</u> Louisa May Alcott is born.	<u>30</u> <u>1667</u> Jonathan Swift is born.					

Welcome

Welcome to our November 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?

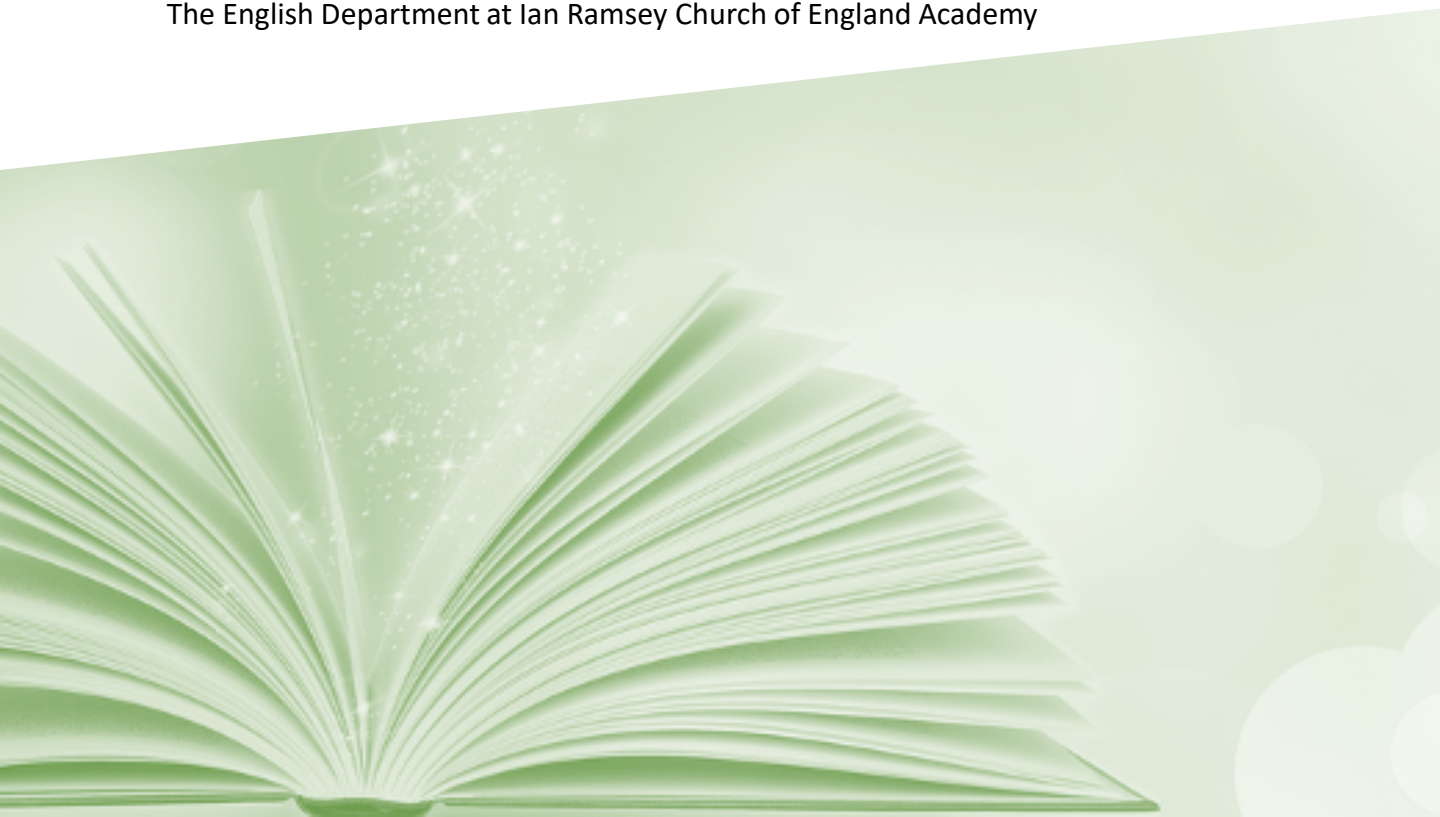
This newsletter is a chance to find out about:

- 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,

The English Department at Ian Ramsey Church of England Academy



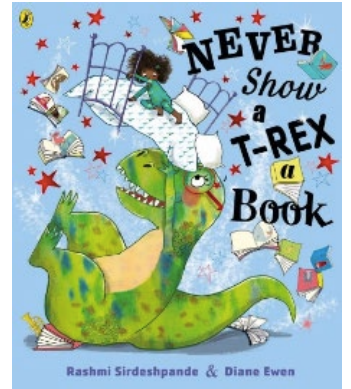
Author spotlight

This month's author: Rashmi Sirdeshpande

Rashmi Sirdeshpande is a UK-based children's author known for her engaging and educational works.

She is celebrated for her ability to create captivating stories that both entertain and educate young readers. She has a talent for weaving together narratives that not only capture children's imaginations but also impart valuable lessons and knowledge.

With a background in law and an interest in education, Rashmi often infuses her writing with themes of diversity, inclusion, and empowerment. Her books often address important topics in a way that is accessible and relatable to young readers.



Author to academy

HELLO!



Art by Diane Ewen

I'm Rashmi and I'm a children's author. I write a real mix of things as you can see below. Yep, those are my books! The words are by me and the pictures are by some truly awesome artists who I am very, very proud to work with!

Inside our books, you'll find dinosaurs, robots, rockets, aliens, creative, kind and clever children, fabulous friendships, budding stars who are brave and bold, inspiring people and movements, tips on building life skills, and LOTS of fantastic facts about our incredible world. Told you it was a real mix!

It's no wonder that the very first picture book I ever wrote is about a T. rex who falls in love with reading. She loves EVERYTHING by the way - funny books, factual books, spooky stories, mysteries, action adventures, magical stories, poems, comics, cookbooks...EVERYTHING! And so do I! I think we're very lucky to have so many different types of books out there. There really is something for everyone.

Have you found your "thing" yet? MAYBE if you love one type of book, next time you can try picking up something *really* different! And MAYBE you'll end up like T. rex (and me!) and you'll enjoy EVERYTHING too! Have a go! And most of all, have FUN!

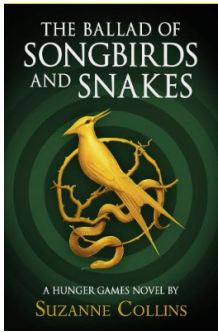
Happy reading!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rashmi S". The letters are cursive and fluid.

Rashmi Sirdeshpande



From page to screen

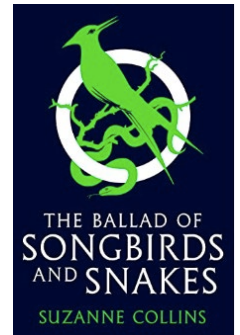


Fans of Suzanne Collins have been patiently anticipating the long-awaited release of the prequel to the award-winning Hunger Games series.

It has been eight years since Mockingjay Part Two was released on the silver screen, and now The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes is due to be showcased this month.

The fourth instalment takes place in Panem when Coriolanus Snow (President Snow) is only 18 years old. It's the year of the 10th Hunger Games. Families in the Capitol are still trying to gain back the wealth they had prior to the rebellion.

With everything he has worked for hanging in the balance, Snow unites with Lucy Gray to turn the odds in their favour. Battling his instincts for both good and evil, Snow sets out on a race against time to survive and reveal if he will ultimately become a songbird or a snake.





The United Kingdom boasts a rich literary heritage and a prolific publishing tradition. With a history that includes iconic authors like William Shakespeare, Jane Austen, and Charles Dickens, the UK has been a global hub for literature. This tradition continues today, with a vibrant literary scene that produces a diverse array of books, catering to readers of all ages and interests.

The UK hosts numerous literary festivals and events throughout the year, attracting both national and international authors. Events like the Hay Festival, Edinburgh International Book Festival, and the London Book Fair provide platforms for authors to connect with readers, discuss their work, and celebrate the written word. These festivals contribute to a dynamic literary culture and foster a sense of community among readers and writers alike.

Reading fiction has a unique ability to boost empathy. When readers immerse themselves in a narrative, they often identify with characters, experiencing their emotions and challenges. This emotional connection fosters a greater understanding of diverse perspectives, promoting empathy and compassion in readers.

Studies suggest that regular reading may contribute to a longer life. A study found that adults who spent time reading books lived, on average, two years longer than non-readers. This could go so far as to suggest that the habit of reading may be associated with a range of factors that positively impact overall well-being.



2022 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

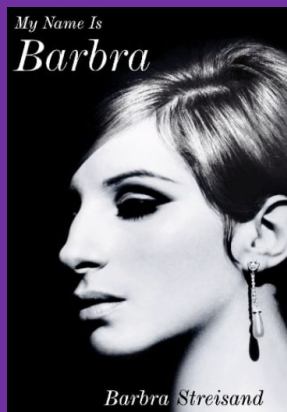


What's new?

Non-fiction

My Name is Barbra by Barbra Streisand

From the nightclubs of New York to fame on Broadway and in Hollywood, Barbra Streisand's eagerly anticipated memoir recounts the truly remarkable life and career of a showbusiness icon.



Fiction

Iron Flame by Rebecca Yarros

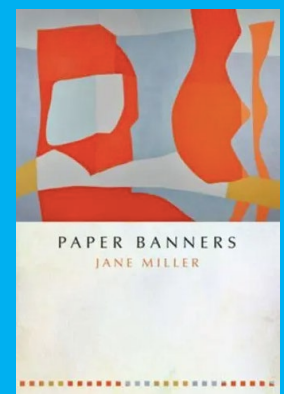
The fallout from Violet's jaw-dropping discoveries in *Fourth Wing* takes spectacular flight in this completely unputdownable second instalment of Yarros' TikTok-dominating fantasy series.



Poetry

Paper Banners by Jane Miller

A selection of poems surrounding themes of desire, mortality, and the mission of poetry itself, Jane Miller's *Paper Banners* catalogues the intimate experiences that create a life, hoping that "what will survive of us is love."

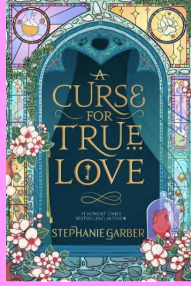


Student Recommendations



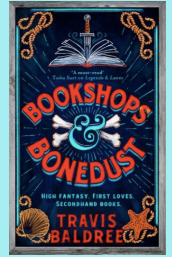
A Curse for True Love by Stephanie Garber

Evangeline Fox's story comes to a mesmerising conclusion as the fate of the Prince of Hearts is sealed in the sweeping climax to Garber's *Once Upon a Broken Heart* trilogy.



Bookshops and Bonedust by Travis Baldree

A bellicose orc finds unexpected adventure in the second-hand bookshops of a sleepy beach town in this impossibly charming, witty and immersive slice of whimsical fantasy from the author of *Legends and Lattes*.



The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes by Suzanne Collins

Return to the world of *The Hunger Games* in a compelling prequel that both informs the original trilogy and stands alone as a powerful, breathlessly exciting science fiction thriller.



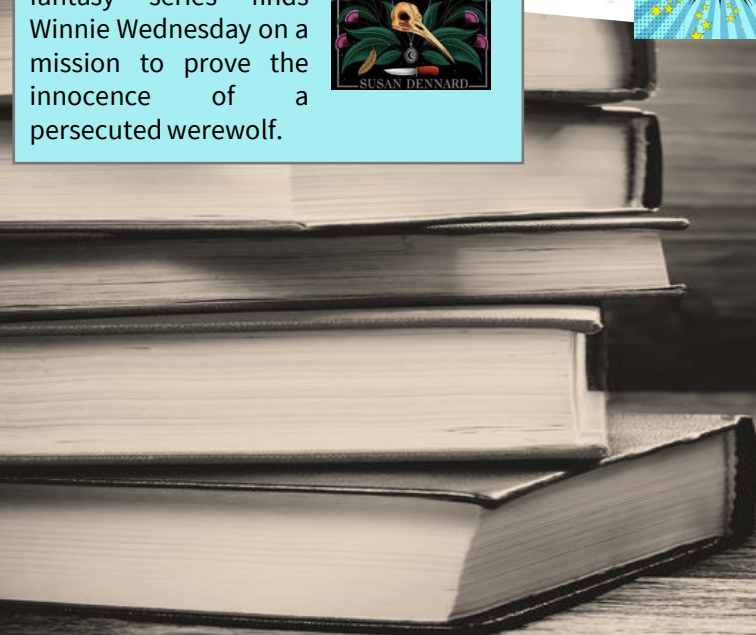
The Hunting Moon by Susan Dennard

Inviting the reader back to the world of *The Luminaries*, this second spellbinding instalment in Dennard's gorgeous fantasy series finds Winnie Wednesday on a mission to prove the innocence of a persecuted werewolf.



Good Girl, Bad Blood by Holly Jackson

Boasting incredibly assured plotting and an involving, credible cast of characters, *Good Girl, Bad Blood* is a terrifically engaging sequel to the bestselling *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder*.



Staff Recommendations



The Housemaid's Secret by Freida McFadden

These are easy reading books that are well written. They both contain incredible twists and turns throughout. Just when you think you are sure of the direction the writer is taking the plot she about turns, and you are left wondering how that could possibly have happened. If you like psychological thrillers,.



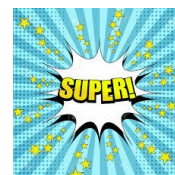
The Marriage Portrait by Maggie O'Farrell

Inspired by the poem 'My Last Duchess' by Robert Browning, Maggie O'Farrell tells the story of Lucrezia De' Medici's marriage to the Duke of Ferrera. The story gives great insight into the lives of women during the Italian Renaissance. I enjoyed the juxtaposition of the historical nature and the contemporary themes in this book. The writing is fluid and full of nuance, but you don't need to be an historian to understand the context. It's a thoroughly enjoyable and thought provoking read.



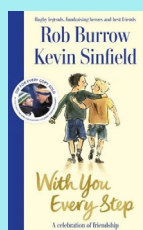
Can't Spell Treason Without Tea by Rebecca Thorne

I absolutely loved *Can't Spell Treason Without Tea* by Rebecca Thorne this summer. A queen's guard and the top magician of the country run away together to start a bookshop cafe. The way they start as outsiders in the village and end up accepted and involved in the community alongside a little bit of adventure and dragon attacks was excellent.



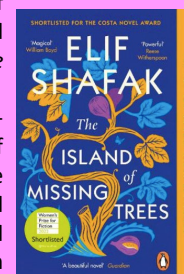
With You Every Step: A Celebration of Friendship by Rob Burrow and Kevin Sinfield

Adorned with black line art from the UK's top illustrators, *With You Every Step* is a heartfelt and inspiring celebration of friendship for readers of all ages from rugby legends and best friends Rob Burrow and Kevin Sinfield.



The Island of Missing Trees by Elif Shafak

Mining questions of belonging, identity and trauma, the author of *The Architect's Apprentice* delivers a multi-layered, bittersweet tale of star-crossed love on the divided island of Cyprus and the legacy of secrecy and pain that gets handed down to future generations.



Local Libraries

Good Reads

Goodreads is the world's largest site for readers and book recommendations. Ultimately, they want to help readers discover new books to love and get the most out of what they read.

The website offers a range of services including personalised recommendations that you can share with friends. They also offer a range of challenges you can take part in whether you're looking for your next festive read or something new to try in the new year.

Head over to <https://www.goodreads.com/> to start exploring.



Creative Writing Club



creative writing club

Room 211

Miss Smith

Thursdays 3-4



English on the road



This year, we're getting in the Christmas spirit by taking a trip the capital! As well as being able to see the sights and sounds of London during the festive period, pupils will also enjoy a trip to the theatre to see an adaptation of Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol'. See Miss Booth for more information!



First liners



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

1. Someone must have slandered Josef K., for one morning, without having done anything truly wrong, he was arrested.

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

3. In my younger and more vulnerable years, my father gave me some advice that I've been turning over in my mind ever since.

4. You better not never tell nobody but God.

5. The manor echoes as I walk along its hallways.

6. On the second day of December in a year when a Georgia peanut farmer was doing business in the White House, one of Colorado's great resort hotels burned to the ground.

7. There is a party at the Conways, this autumn evening of 1919, but we cannot see it, only hear it.

8. The overture comes to a close.

9. It was love at first sight.



Word of the Month

Bugbear

(Origin: English)

A bugbear is a source of dread or irritation; in other words, something that causes problems or annoys people.

Oddly enough, bugbears are neither bugs nor bears, but a secret, third thing. Let's start with the *bug* in *bugbear*, which refers not to an insect, but instead comes from the Middle English word *bugge*.

This *bugge* was used for all kinds of imaginary spooky creatures—from ghosts and goblins to scarecrows—that cause fright or dread. In the 1500s this *bug* was combined with *bear* (as in the animal) to form *bugbear*.



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. The Trial by Franz Kafka
2. Murphy by Samuel Beckett
3. The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
4. The Colour Purple by Alice Walker
5. Wicked Little Deeds by Kat Ellis
6. Doctor Sleep by Stephen King
7. Time and the Conways by J.B. Priestley
8. Blood Brothers by Willy Russell
9. Catch 22 by Joseph Heller

