



IAN RAMSEY CE ACADEMY

Together to learn, to grow, to serve

Reading Newsletter



this MONTH in history

OCTOBER

1	1684 Pierre Corneille dies.	2	1869 Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi is born.	3	1916 James Alfred Wight ("James Herriot") is born.	4	1941 Anne Rice is born.	5	1703 Jonathan Edwards is born.	6	1892 Alfred, Lord Tennyson dies.	7	1849 Edgar Allan Poe dies.
8	1920 Frank Herbert is born.	9	1919 Belva Plain is born.	10	1913 Claude Simon is born.	11	1925 Elmore Leonard is born.	12	2005 Harold Pinter wins the Nobel Prize for Literature	13	1925 Frank D. Gilroy is born	14	1961 Frank Loesser and Abe Burrows's musical <i>How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying</i> is first performed
15	1844 Friedrich Nietzsche is born	16	1854 Oscar Wilde is born	17	1915 Arthur Miller is born	18	1960 Mark Mathabane is born	19	1745 Jonathan Swift dies	20	1940 Robert Pinsky is born	21	1772 Samuel Taylor Coleridge is born
22	1941 Max Apple is born	23	1844 Robert Bridges is born	24	1923 Denise Levertov is born	25	1400 Geoffrey Chaucer dies	26	1945 Pat Conroy is born	27	1932 Sylvia Plath is born	28	1998 Ted Hughes dies
29	1882 Jean Giraudoux is born	30	1938 Orson Welles's Halloween Eve radio broadcast describing in realistic fashion a Martian invasion of the Earth, based upon H. G. Wells's novel <i>The War of the Worlds</i> , terrifies many radio listeners throughout the United States	31	1795 John Keats is born.								

Welcome

Welcome to our October 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

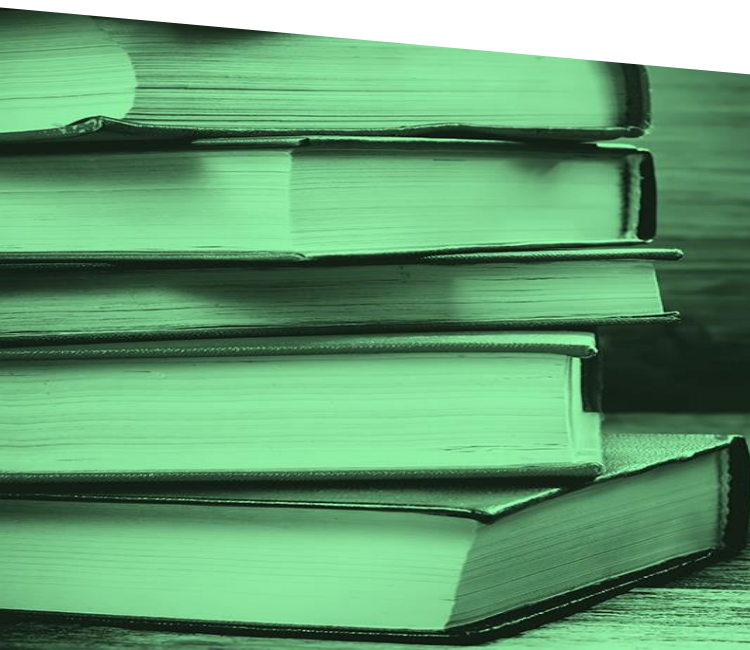
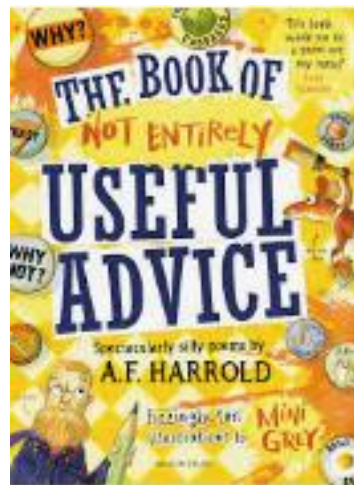
This month's author: A.F. Harrold

This month's 'Author Spotlight' focuses on the fantastic work of A.F. Harrold.

A.F. Harrold is an English poet, writer, performer and children's author.

He was Glastonbury Festival Website's Poet-In-Residence in 2008, and Poet-In-Residence at Cheltenham Literature Festival in 2010. He won the Cheltenham All Stars Slam Championship in 2007 and has had his work on BBC Radio 4, Radio 3 and BBC7.

He is active in schools work, running workshops and slams and doing performances at ungodly hours of the morning, and has published several collections of poetry.



Author to academy

Dear Pupils, Staff, Parents and Pets of Ian Ramsey CE Academy,

My name is A.F. Harrold and I have a confession to make...I am a...poet.

Not only am I a poet, I am also performer. I like showing off and being funny on stage, usually with my poems.



After being a poet for some years, I found that I needed to pay the bills, and it turned out one of the ways for a poet to do that was to visit schools and run poetry workshops. It turns out lots of teachers are scared of poetry and like to get a professional in to do it instead!

Going back to school after so long in the world of grown ups is a bit of a revelation. The creative energy was bubbling in the vibrant joy of people I met. They wanted to share their thoughts and ideas and they were brilliant.

If you've ever spent time with grown-ups, getting them to join in can be like pulling teeth, but the kids I met spilt over with creative enthusiasm. I intrigued me and we all had so much fun playing with words, that I've carried on doing it for many years now.

Because that's really what I do- play with words, juggle them about, find new ones and new ways to use old ones. Using language should be fun and as long as the other person understands what you're getting at, you're doing it right!

When I was a kid I liked books. I didn't always find other kids easy to get on with, but books made sense- sentence after sentence the story would unfold and it happened at your own pace (not like a film, which goes at it's pace, regardless of if you're paying attention or not), and the world of the books existed in your head. It was yours, mine-private. You could be reading it sat in a room of other people and they would never know where you were or what you were doing- you might be n the side of a mountain or on a ship during a pirate mutiny- only you know. I loved that.



Author to academy

We didn't have a lot of books at home, but we went to the library every week. In fact, my dad had an evening job as a cleaner in a dentist's surgery and he'd take me with him, drop me off at the library on the way, then pick me up a couple of hours later on his way home, to give my mum a rest, I guess, a bit of time to herself. But it meant every week got to spend a couple of hours by myself in the library and I just ate all the books (with my eyes and with my brain). I think I learnt more by just grazing through the children's reference section than I did in class.



Books really did make me. They were friends and they were worlds to explore, they were doors away from boredom and gates into the life I lead- making things out of words and sharing them with the kids I meet.

I don't know where the books you read might lead you, but I know it will be somewhere where the horizon is wide and extremely explorable.

Good luck out there,
A.F. Harrold



Author to academy

Sept. 2022

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of Ian Ramsey CE Academy,

My name is A.F. Harold and I have a confession to make... I am a... poet.

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(i)

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Because that's really what I do - play with words, juggle them about, find new ones and new ways to use old ones. Using language should be fun, and as long as the other person understands what you're getting at you're doing it right!

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(ii)



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I don't know where the books you read might lead you, but I know it'll be somewhere where the books are unlimited and the horizon is wide and endlessly explorable.

Good luck out there,

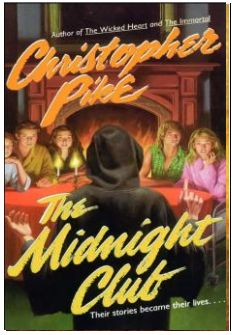
A.F. Harold.



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From page to screen



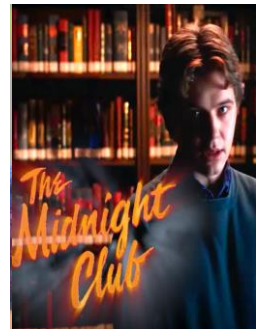
This month's From Page to screen is Christopher Pike's *The Midnight Club*, originally published in 1994.

Follow along in the story of five terminally ill patients at Brightcliff Hospice, who gather together in the dead of night to tell spooky tales.

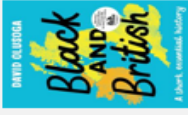


The group decide that when the first of them succumbs to their illness, then they must promise to communicate with their friends from beyond the grave.





















It isn't long before bizarre and frightening incidents start to occur...

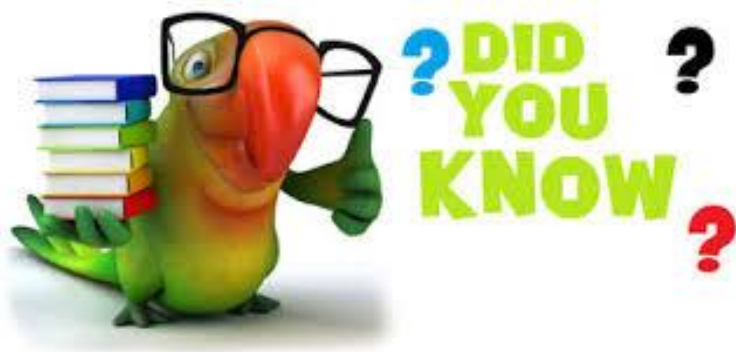


Black History Month 2022

1. Rosa Parks, civil rights activist. https://eu.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2020/02/04/rosa-parks-famous-birthday-5-facts-you-should-know/4653590002/	2. Maya Angelou, poet and writer. https://www.biography.com/writer/maya-angelou	3. Mary Seacole, nurse. https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p07jpw3z	4. Juan Garrido, explorer. https://face2faceafrica.com/article/7-amazing-black-explorers-who-made-a-mark-in-history	5. Michelle Obama, former First Lady and campaigner. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wePNI6L7mDU	6. David Olusoga, Historian. <i>David was born in Gateshead and grew up there</i> https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/profiles/2p794YQ1vGllJpdYDrMn6t/david-olusoga	7. Billie Holiday, singer. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Web007z5OI	
8. Chris Offili, Turner Prize winning artist. https://artuk.org/discover/stories/ten-black-british-artists-to-celebrate	9. Dr Shirley Jackson, physicist. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mKAgAdHhJwQ	10. Joseph Bologne, classical musician 'Black Mozart' https://www.classicfm.com/discover-music/black-composers-who-made-classical-music-history/	11. Reasonable Blackman, Tudor silk weaver. https://www.historyextra.com/period/tudor/black-faces-of-tudor-england/	12. Barbara Walker, artist. https://artuk.org/discover/stories/celebrating-black-british-artists-in-public-collections	13. Matthew Henson, Polar Explorer. https://www.nationalgeographic.com/news/2016/02/160224-polar-explorer-matthew-henson-photos/	14. Jesse Owens, Olympic medalist. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qu00pJmQY4	
15. Toussaint L'Ouverture, leader of the Haitian Revolution https://www.blackpast.org/global-african-history/loverture-toussaint-1743-1803/	16. The first Black Briton, taken from Black and British. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4oIXLBoi0Q	17. Otis Boykin, inventor. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YXQoAla5fs	18. Charles Drew, scientist. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vfddm7p2zH4	19. Florence Prince, classical musician. https://www.classicfm.com/discover-music/black-composers-who-made-classical-music-history/	20. Bernadine Evaristo, writer. https://literature.britishcouncil.org/writer/bernadine-evaristo	21. Diane Abbott, politician. https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/article/section/history-of-politics/the-first-black-parliamentarians-in-our-times/	
22. Black Poppies, soldiers in WW1. <i>Year 9 history students reading extracts of this at the moment</i> https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/black-poppies-britains-black-community-great-war/	23. Dame Doreen Lawrence, campaigner https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/article/section/bhm-theres-no-halo-just-say-hello/	24. Betty Campbell, Wales' first black headteacher. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-58721710	25. Donald Rodney, artist. https://artuk.org/discover/stories/ten-black-british-artists-to-celebrate	26. Chadwick Boseman, actor. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4V5x27WE50	27. Saint Martin de Porres, Patron Saint of racial justice, harmony and mixed-race people. https://www.britannica.com/biography/Saint-Martin-de-Porres	28. Private Arthur Roberts, WW1 soldier. https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/learn/history/arthur-roberts/	
29. The story of Windrush. https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/inspire-me/the-story-of-windrush/	30. Dr Anthony Roberts, QC. https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/article/section/bhm-firsts/dr-john-anthony-roberts-qc/	31. James Peters, rugby player. https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/article/section/bhm-firsts/james-peters-the-1st-black-rugby-player/	Further resources:				 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hamilton, Theatre by an all black cast: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DSCkXpAGHc Black History Month website: https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/ African Kingdoms: https://africankingdoms.co.uk/ Painting Our Past: https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/learn/painting-our-past/ Black and British, A Short Essential History by David Olusoga Black and British - BBC, https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p04995mp National Archives, Black British History on Record, https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/black-history

Black History Month 2022

Fiction Texts		Non-Fiction Texts		Poems		Popular Culture	
<p>Buffalo Soldier (13+) Tanya Landman</p> <p>Plantation slave Charley Smith is eleven when America blows itself apart, with Abraham Lincoln's decision to prohibit slavery. Charley thinks a slice of heaven is coming her way. But it's a taste of hell.</p>		<p>Black and British (13+) David Olusoga</p> <p>David Olusoga's latest edition of <i>Black and British</i> has been revised and rewritten especially for secondary school children, and explains and illustrates the much-overlooked history of Black peoples in Britain and beyond.</p>		<p>A Change is Gonna Come (12+)</p> <p>Featuring poems and stories from 12 black, Asian and minority ethnic authors – including four previously unpublished writers – this absorbing book offers refreshing perspectives and thought-provoking questions about the meaning of change that will hit home with everyone.</p>		<p>Black Library – Windrush Stories</p> <p>In June 1948 the <i>Empire Windrush</i> arrived at Tilbury Docks, Essex carrying hundreds of people from the Caribbean. 70 years on, <i>Windrush Stories</i> invites us to consider a longer, more complicated and ongoing relationship between Britain and the Caribbean.</p>	
<p>The Hate U Give (12+) Angie Thomas</p> <p>Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her best friend Khalil.</p>		<p>The Extraordinary Life of Series (10+)</p> <p>Published by Penguin, this series explores the extraordinary life of many influential people such as Nelson Mandela, Serena Williams, Rosa Parks, Mary Seacole, Katherine Johnson and many more.</p>		<p>Still I Rise (11+) Maya Angelou</p> <p><i>"You may write me down in history With your bitter, twisted lies, You may trod me in the very dirt But still, like dust, I'll rise."</i></p>		<p>TV BBC Adaptation of Malorie Blackman's Naughts and Crosses.</p> <p>In a dystopian London, Sephy and Callum fall in love despite the odds. Can they breach the divide between the black elite and white underclass?</p>	
<p>Crongton Knights (12+) Alex Wheatle</p> <p>McKay's life on the South Crongton Estate is rough. His Mum has died, his Dad works all hours of the day to keep away the Bailiffs, and his brother is always out looking for trouble. McKay never looks for trouble, but in one mad night everything changes.</p>		<p>This Book is Anti-Racist (10+) Tiffany Jewell</p> <p>Often using personal anecdotes about her own schooling, family and experiences as a young mixed race girl, Jewell's fascinating, friendly and hugely relatable guide is essential reading for kids with questions about racism, politics and history as well as the current #blacklivesmatter movement.</p>		<p>What Stephen Lawrence Taught Us (12+) Benjamin Zephaniah</p> <p><i>"As we continue emptying our pockets on the pavements, And we continue to ask ourselves Why is it so official That black people are so often killed Without killers?"</i></p>		<p>Podcast The Black Curriculum Podcast</p> <p>Available on Spotify and Apple Podcast, this podcast explores British Black history with short discussion on topics such as sound system culture and the Bristol bus boycott.</p>	
<p>The Crossover (10+) Kwame Alexander</p> <p>Josh and JB are basketball legends at their school. They also happen to be identical twins, but it's easy to tell them apart if you know how to look. As the boys build up the most important matches of their lives, tensions grow between them.</p>		<p>Grown: The Black Girls' Guide to Glowing Up Melissa Cummings-Quarry (14+)</p> <p>Being a teenager and trying to understand who you are and what you stand for is hard. But if you're a Black girl and don't always see yourself represented in the books you read, the films you watch, the adverts you see or the history you're taught, it can be even tougher.</p>		<p>Half Caste (12+) John Agard</p> <p><i>"but you must come back tomorrow Wid de whole of yu eye And de whole of yu ear And de whole of yu mind."</i></p>		<p>Film Black Panther</p> <p>T'Challa is the king of Wakanda, the secretive and highly advanced African nation, as well as the powerful warrior known as the Black Panther. This is the first Marvel film with a predominantly black cast.</p>	
<p>How High The Moon (14+) Karyn Parsons</p> <p>In a small town in 1940s South Carolina, Ella has got some very exciting news. She'll be leaving her grandparents and cousin Henry behind, because her mother finally wants her to join her in the busy city of Boston. But can the reality ever live up to Ella's dreams?</p>		<p>Timelines from Black History: Leaders, Legends, Legacies (9+)</p> <p>The lives and achievements of leading lights as diverse as Stormzy, basketball star LeBron James, poet and novelist Maya Angelou are chronicled in this excellent book that follows black history across many centuries to today's contemporary world.</p>		<p>waiting on the mayflower (14+) Evie Shockley</p> <p><i>"I, august 1619 arrived in a boat, named and unnamed, twenty, pirated away from a portuguese slaver, traded for victuals."</i></p>		<p>Art Kara Walker</p> <p>Kara Elizabeth Walker is an American contemporary painter, silhouettist, print-maker who explores races and identity in her work. She is best known for her room-size tableaux of black cut-paper silhouettes.</p>	



16-year-olds who choose to read books for pleasure outside of school are more likely to secure managerial or professional jobs in later life.

Children who read books often at age 10 and more than once a week at age 16 gain higher results in maths, vocabulary and spelling tests at age 16 than those who read less regularly.

Having books in the home is associated with both reading enjoyment and confidence. For children who report having over 200 books at home, only 12% say they do not like reading and 73% consider themselves 'very confident' readers.

Reading extensively and for pleasure can help to develop stronger reading habits and increase literacy skills at a greater rate than through formal literacy lessons.



2022 Reading Challenge

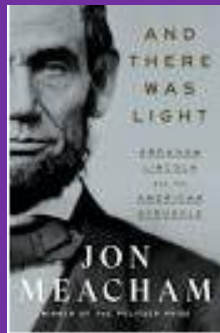
- A book with more than 500 pages
- A classic romance
- A book that became a movie
- A book published this year
- A book with a number in the title
- A book written by someone under 30
- A book with nonhuman characters
- A funny book
- A book by a female author
- A mystery or thriller
- A book with a 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

And Then There Was Light: Abraham Lincoln and the American Struggle by John Meacham

Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer Jon Meacham chronicles the life of Abraham Lincoln, charting how—and why—he confronted secession, threats to democracy, and the tragedy of slavery to expand the possibilities of America



Fiction

Our Missing Hearts by Celeste Ng

From the bestselling author of *Little Fires Everywhere*, a deeply heart-wrenching novel about the unbreakable love between a mother and child in a society consumed by fear.



Poetry

Call It in the Air by Ed Pavlić

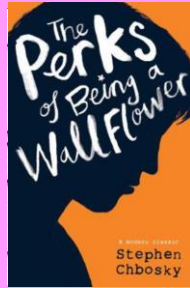
Pavlić's collection traces the life and death of his elder sister, Kate, a brilliant, talented, tormented woman who lived on her own terms to the very end. Kate's shadow lingers on the pages, offering a deep insight into her life through the eyes of her grieved brother.



Pupil Recommendations: Y11

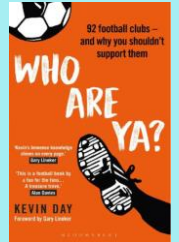
The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky

A beloved debut that has become something of a cult classic. An acute and affecting take on American high school life with all its attendant insecurities, hormonal dramas and romantic awkwardness.



Who Are Ya?: 92 Football Clubs and Why You Shouldn't Support Them by Kevin Day

The comedian and broadcaster delivers a hilarious personal guide to all 92 English Football League clubs, from Hull City tattoos to donkeys called Lightning,



The Dragon's Promise- Six Crimson Cranes by Elizabeth Lim

The author of the bestselling *Six Crimson Cranes* returns with the magical new saga of a cursed pearl and true love truly tested, set in an evocative land full of dragons and political intrigue.



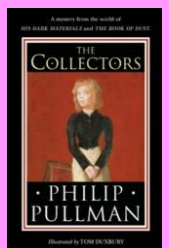
Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore - The Original Screenplay by J.K Rowling

The complete screenplay of the latest adventure in the Wizarding World unveils the secret backstory of the iconic Albus Dumbledore.



The Collectors: A short story from the world of His Dark Materials and the Book of Dust by Philip Pullman

This glorious new tale set in the universe of His Dark Materials sees an art-collecting Oxford academic acquire two imposing paintings which turn out to be connected in mysterious and improbable ways.

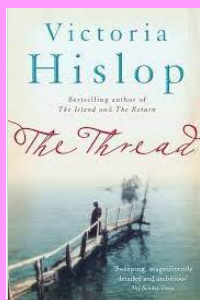


Staff Recommendations



Mrs. Devenney recommends: *The Thread* by Victoria Hislop

This book is an historical novel set in Thessaloniki in Greece. It tells the story of the movement of people during the 20th century across a troubled Europe in uncertain political times..



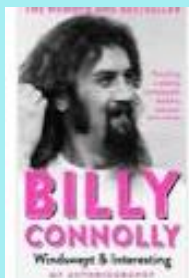
Mrs. Cook recommends: *How To Kill Your Family* by Bella Mackie

A darkly humorous debut novel that follows a cunning anti-hero as she gets her revenge. This was a great engaging read. It was great throughout until the last two chapters, but I won't give you any spoilers!



Miss. Bolland recommends: *Windswept and Interesting* by Billy Connolly

The autobiography truly explores the diverse experiences Connolly's life has consisted of. It is extremely funny – packed with hard-earned wisdom as well as countless comical (and sometimes cheeky) anecdotes.



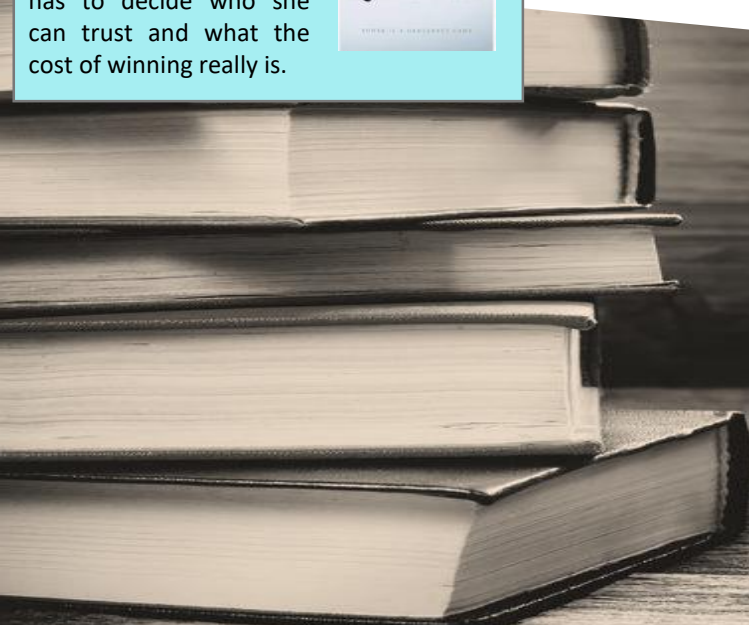
Miss. Booth recommends: *Red Queen* by Victoria Aveyard

This is the first book in a series, there are four books in total. The Red Queen follows the trials and tribulations of Mare. A 17-year-old girl who has to decide who she can trust and what the cost of winning really is.



Mr. Lupton recommends: *Best Served Cold* by Joe Abercrombie

I am currently re-reading this one. In which an influential mercenary leader in a *Game of Thrones*-esque world is betrayed and left for dead by the ruler she trusted and his inner circle.



Local Libraries

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First liners



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

1. Don't nobody believe nothing these days which is why I haven't told nobody the story I'm about to tell you.

2. The Glock 23 felt heavy and seductively comfortable in my hand.

3. Lily stared out across the water.

4. I'll pheeze you, in faith.

5. I remember before I was born.

6. We were coming down our road.

7. Have you ever wondered what it would be like to have a million pounds?

8. Victoria Wentworth sat alone at the table where Wellington had dined with sixteen of his field officers the night before he set out for Waterloo.

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



Word of the Month

Panache

(Origin: French)

Today, when we say that someone has *panache*, we are saying that they have energy, spirit, and style. Originally, the word referred to an ornamental tuft or plume of feathers, and especially one affixed to a helmet.

Few literary characters can match the panache of French poet and soldier Cyrano de Bergerac, from Edmond Rostand's 1897 play of the same name. In his dying moments, Cyrano declares that the one thing left to him is his panache, and that assertion at once demonstrates the meaning of the word and draws upon its history.



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 some words of wisdom from Mary Pope Osborne:



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 October's newsletter and look forward to sending you November's edition!

*Answers to First Lines:

1. Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds
2. Double Cross by Malorie Blackman
3. Lily by Holly Webb
4. The Taming of the Shrew by William Shakespeare
5. My Girl 2 by Patricia Hermes
6. Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha by Roddy Doyle
7. Billionaire Boy by David Walliams
8. False Impression by Jeffrey Archer
9. The Go-between by L.P. Hartley

