



# IAN RAMSEY CE ACADEMY

Together to learn, to grow, to serve

# Reading Newsletter



# this MONTH in history

# SEPTEMBER

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1875: Edgar Rice Burroughs is born.	1918 Allen Drury is born.	1592 Robert Greene dies.	1792 Percy Bysshe Shelley is born.	1916 Frank Yerby is born.	1994 James Clavell dies.	1900 Taylor Caldwell is born.
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1947 Ann Beattie is born.	1828 Leo Tolstoy is born.	1797 Mary Wollstonecraft dies.	1885 D. H. Lawrence is born.	1907 Louis MacNeice is born.	1916 Roald Dahl is born.	1982 John Gardner Jr. dies.
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
1938 Thomas Wolfe dies.	1950 Henry Louis Gates Jr. is born.	1935 Ken Kesey is born.	1915 The fictional twosome of Bertie Wooster and Jeeves is introduced by P. G. Wodehouse in the story "Extricating Young Gussie," published in <i>The Saturday Evening Post</i> .	1911 William Golding is born.	1990 Thomas McGrath dies.	1947 Stephen King is born.
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
1950 Ralph J. Bunche, a black American, wins the Nobel Peace Prize.	1973 Pablo Neruda dies.	1896 F. Scott Fitzgerald is born.	1987 Emlyn Williams dies.	1949 Jane Smiley is born.	1917 Louis Auchincloss is born.	1891 Herman Melville dies.
29	30					
1810 Elizabeth Clegghorn Stevenson (Gaskell) is born.	1924 Truman Persons (Truman Capote) is born.					

# Welcome

Welcome to our September 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



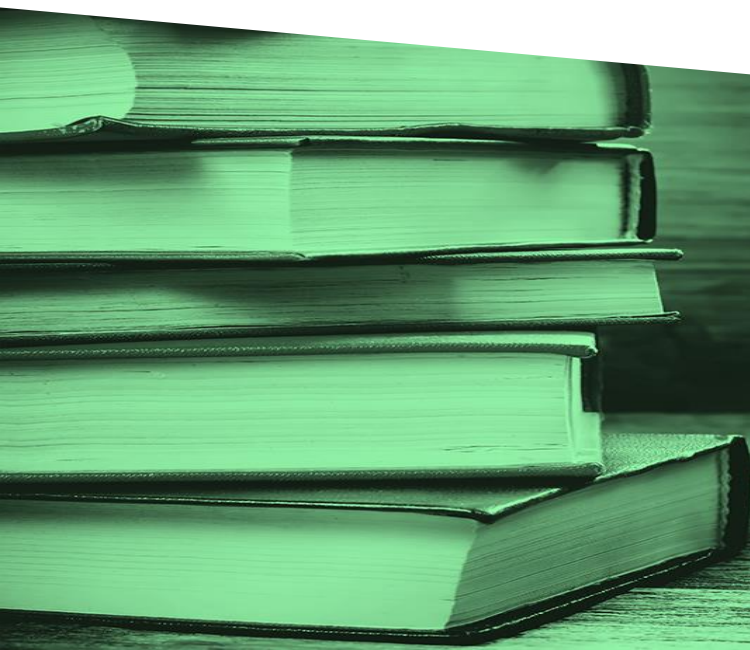
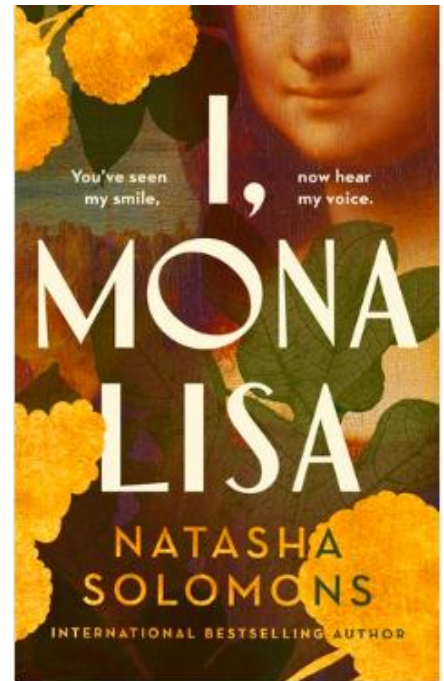
# Author spotlight

## This month's author: Natasha Solomons

Natasha Solomons is a writer and the New York Times bestselling author of *The Gallery of Vanished Husbands*, *The House at Tyneford*, and *Mr. Rosenblum Dreams in English*. She lives in Dorset England, with her husband, the writer David Solomons, and their two young children.

Natasha has written a wide variety of compelling novels. Her latest *I, Mona Lisa* is a deliciously vivid, compulsive and illuminating story about the lost and forgotten women throughout history.

You can find her on Instagram at: [@natashasolomonsauthor](https://www.instagram.com/natashasolomonsauthor)



# Author to academy



Hi,

I'm not sure anyone is simply born a writer. I certainly wasn't. My first novel was truly terrible. I showed it to my then boyfriend, a screenwriter. He tried to be kind but broke it to me that it absolutely wasn't fit to be published or even read by anyone who didn't love me. I was devastated as I was so desperate to be a writer that I cried until my eyelids bruised (I didn't know that was even possible until I did it.) Then I sat down and began another novel. This one had promise, I worked on set of notes after notes. Twenty drafts and a couple of years later that book was published. When I looked at it in a bookshop, it seemed like a miracle.

While I suppose all debut novelists feel like that, for me it felt particularly marvellous as I struggled to read until I was eight. No one explained to me that the written shapes on the page were related to the words we spoke. I thought there were two separate languages: one sounds and one squiggles. I grew up in the late Eighties and none of my teachers knew about dyslexia. They were mystified as to why a child who was obviously "bright and very talkative in class — perhaps a little too talkative" — was utterly unable to keep up with reading, let alone writing. I was labelled careless and lazy. In fact, I had to work twice as hard as everyone else just to keep up.



# Author to academy



Since that first book, I have published seven more. Writing means that I live at least two lives at once: one on the page and one in the real world. When I have to return from my desk to the school run, I feel a jolt. It's like jet-lag. I talk to people but for a while I'm not really there – I'm in Verona or Paris or Rome, I'm five hundred years ago, I'm next week. I'm tomorrow.

I write to connect with people. The last couple of years have been so isolating and so it is especially brilliant when someone comes up to you or drops you a line and says that your story meant something to them or helped them at a difficult time.

My new book is coming out in the UK in July next year. I wrote it during lockdown, while my five year old daughter was in the room with me, at a small desk beside me. It was so hard to write with small, loud company... It's called 'Fair Rosaline'. It's the story of Romeo and Juliet, but told from Romeo's first girlfriend, Rosaline's point of view. It's Romeo the groomer and seducer of teenagers from the perspective of Rosaline Capulet, the teenage girl who got away, and who wants to save her young cousin and friend from a predator.



# Author to academy



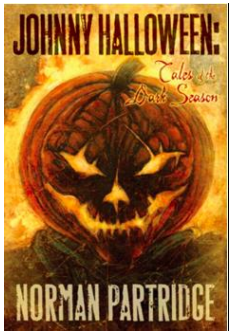
Even though it was so hard to write with my noisy, interrupting office buddy, this book will always be particularly special because of her presence. It's a book about and for fierce young women. I hope my daughter will love it one day.

Good luck in all you set out to do!

Natasha

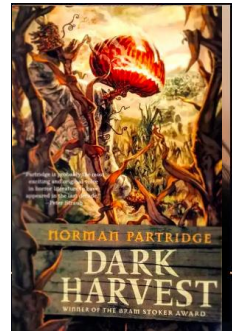


# From page to screen



This month's From Page to screen is Norman Partridge's *Dark Harvest*.

Halloween, 1963. They call him the October Boy, or Ol' Hacksaw Face, or Sawtooth Jack.



Whatever the name, everybody in this small Midwestern town knows who he is.



How he rises from the cornfields every Halloween, a butcher knife in his hand, and makes his way toward town, where gangs of teenage boys eagerly await their chance to confront the legendary nightmare.



Both the hunter and the hunted, the October Boy is the prize in an annual rite of life and death.







Reading a good book after a long and stressful day works wonders on our state of mind. Studies have actually shown that leafing through a book can be up to 600% more efficient in relieving stress than playing a video game.

We all know how important sleep is for our health. Reading before going to bed has been shown to help people fall asleep easier and quicker. Sleep readiness is something many of us struggle with, especially those of us who spend a lot of time looking at our phones before going to bed.

One of the most interesting facts about reading books is how much it can actually change a person. Reading is not only a great hobby, it is an amazing self-development tool.

Reading a book has been found to reduce blood pressure and lower your heart rate. By helping your mind relax, it helps your body relax as well.



# 2022 Reading Challenge

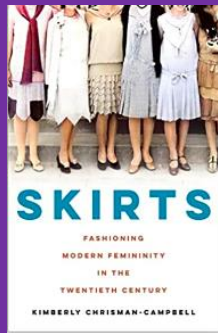
- A book with more than 500 pages
- A classic romance
- A book that became a movie
- A book published this year
- A book with a number in the title
- A book written by someone under 30
- A book with nonhuman characters
- A funny book
- A book by a female author
- A mystery or thriller
- A book with a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

### *Skirts: Fashioning Modern Femininity in the Twentieth Century* by Kimberley Chrisman- Campbell

In a sparkling, beautifully illustrated social history, *Skirts* traces the shifting roles of women over the twentieth century through the era's most iconic and influential dresses.

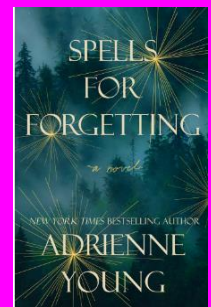


## Fiction

### *Spells for Forgetting* by Adrienne Young

From the New York Times bestselling author Adrienne Young, *Spell For Forgetting* is a compelling novel chock full of ancestral magic, an unsolved murder and a second chance at love.

The story begins with Emery Blackwood, who finds her life changed forever on the eve of her graduation when the love of her life, August Salt, is accused of murdering her best friend Lily.



## Poetry

### *Brother Sleep* by Aldo Amparan

In Amparan's debut collection, they tackles queerness, the loss of a brother, the U.S Mexico border, and more. Jericho Brown says, "Each poem is an example of a poet who's mastered his craft well enough to retrace steps back to the place where family, nationhood, and exile meet...This is a beautiful debut."

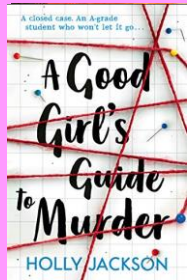


# Pupil Recommendations: Y9



*A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* by Holly Jackson

A compelling murder mystery that debuts a likeable teenage sleuth out to crack a cold case as part of her homework assignment.



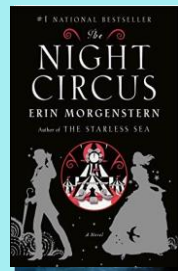
*Solitaire* by Alice Oseman

This incredible debut novel by outstanding young author Alice Oseman is perfect for fans of John Green, Rainbow Rowell and all unflinchingly honest writers.



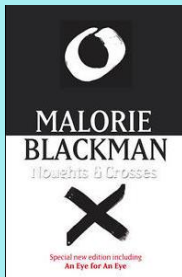
*The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern

The circus arrives without warning. No announcements precede it. It is simply there, when yesterday it was not, but as night falls, the Circus of Dreams opens its doors.



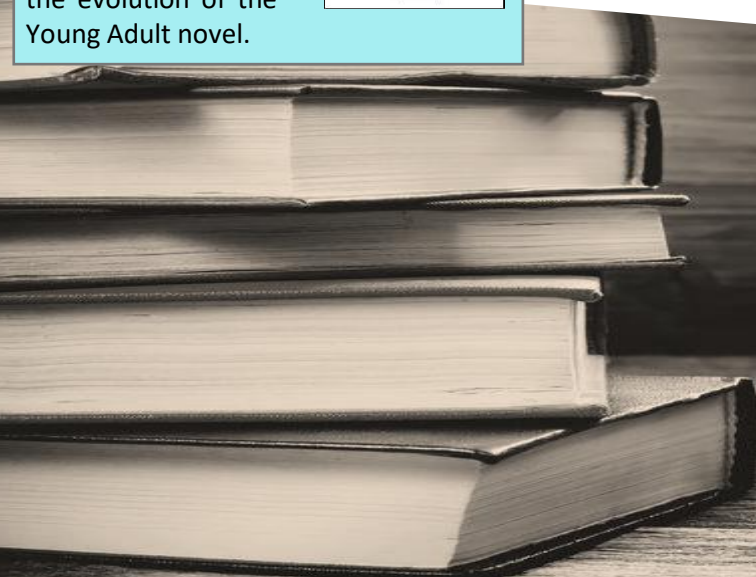
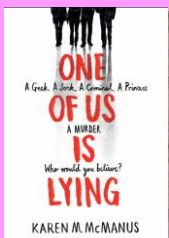
*Noughts and Crosses* by Malorie Blackman

A journey venturing through race relations and the burning passions of the teenage heart, *Noughts and Crosses* is pivotal in the evolution of the Young Adult novel.



*One Of Us Is Lying* by Karen M. McManus

Bronwyn has never publicly broken a rule. Cooper only knows what he's doing in the baseball diamond. Nate is one misstep away from a life of crime. Addy is holding together the cracks in her perfect life., won't ever talk about any of them again.

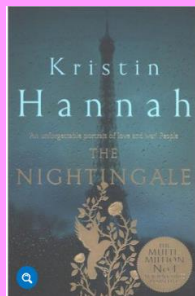


# Staff Recommendations



Mrs. Chapman- Jones recommends:  
*The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah

A powerful, beautiful and heart-breaking read. As war progresses, two sisters' relationship and strength is tested, with life changing in unbelievably horrific ways.



Mr. Wallace recommends: *The Ladybird Book of the Shed* by Jason Hazeley and Joel Morris

Using your shed as an office is called shed working. Bunny works from his shed. He is a freelance cow-whisperer. At least, that's what he tells his wife. Mildly Amusing. Easy vocabulary. Relevant to me.



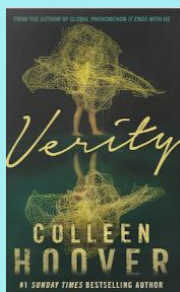
Mr. Lupton recommends: *The Expanse* series by James S.A. Corey

*The Expanse* is an odd mixture of science fiction and horror. The sci-fi is pretty horrific already, with a lot of emphasis on the dangers of space travel...



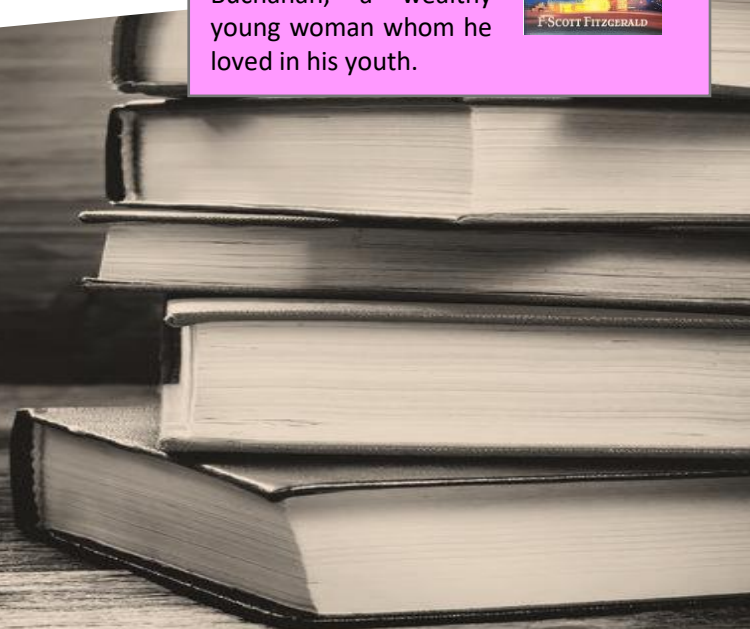
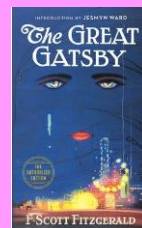
Miss. Bolland recommends: *Verity* by Colleen Hoover

An utterly compelling read that had me in tears at places. One that I could not put down and made for a perfect summer's day.



Mr. Spence recommends: *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

This has been one of my favourites for a long time. It tells the tragic story of Jay Gatsby, a self-made millionaire, and his pursuit of Daisy Buchanan, a wealthy young woman whom he loved in his youth.



# Local Libraries

## Ingleby Barwick Library

Over the summer, Ingleby Barwick library have hosted a range of activities for all the family to enjoy.

The library is situated in the heart of Ingleby Barwick, making it a quick and easy trip out for a few hours. As well as hosting in-house events, it has also added a number of online events to it's calendar so there is no chance of you missing out!

For more information on upcoming events, email [inglebybarwick.library@Stockton.gov.uk](mailto:inglebybarwick.library@Stockton.gov.uk)



# First liners



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

1. You can call me Link. It's not my name, but it's what I say when anybody asks, which isn't often.

2. 'Yes,' said Tom bluntly, on opening the front door. 'what d'you want?'

3. 'Where's Papa going with that axe?' said Fern to her mother as they were setting the table for breakfast.

4. A smear of red across her thumb pressed into the hollows and spirals of her skin.

5. They've gone now, and I'm alone at last.

6. On a cold, fretful afternoon in early October, 1872, a handsome cab drew up outside the offices of Lockhart and Selby, Shipping Agents.

7. A small upper bedroom in the home of Reverend Samuel Parris, Salem, Massachusetts, in the spring of the year 1692.

8. 'Honestly, Mrs. Hadley,' said Meggie McGregor, wiping her eyes.

9. There used to be an empty chair at the back of my classroom.



# Word of the Month

## Charisma

(Origin: Greek)

*Charisma* means "a special magnetic charm or appeal." A person with charisma is captivating and often admired.

The Greek word *charisma* means 'favour' or 'gift.' It comes from the verb *charizesthai* (to favour), which in turn comes from the noun *charis*, meaning 'grace.' In English, *charisma* was originally used in Christian contexts to refer to a gift or power bestowed upon an individual by the Holy Spirit for the good of the Church—a sense that is now very rare. These days, we use the word to refer to someone's personality, rather than the divine.





# 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:

gonewiththeenterprise:

harpaea:

do you ever think about how weird reading is

our eyes are able to scan these different symbols and construct the scenarios and concepts they describe in our mind

and these concepts have the power to twist our emotions and make us cry and laugh and wow reading is weird

i think it's one of the most beautiful things in the world

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

\*Answers to First Lines:

1. Stone Cold by Robert Swindells
2. Goodnight Mister Tom by Michelle Magorian
3. Charlotte's Web by E.B White
4. Kill Joy by Holly Jackson
5. Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo
6. The Ruby in the Smoke by Philip Pullman
7. The Crucible by Arthur Miller
8. Noughts and Crosses by Malorie Blackman
9. The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Q. Rauf

