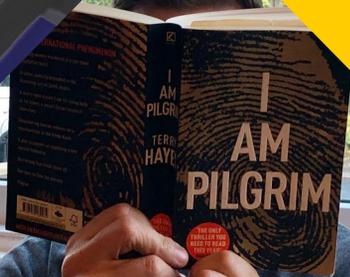




# IAN RAMSEY CE ACADEMY

Together to learn, to grow, to serve

# Reading Newsletter





# 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, thank you!



# Author spotlight

## This month's author: Hannah Durkan



For our first edition of the new school year, we're featuring the fantastic Hannah Durkan.

A passionate advocate of writing for mental health, Hannah's *Zeina Starborn* series has been popular with a wide variety of audiences.

As well as this, Hannah's work has also been met with accolades from The Bath Children's Novel Award (2019) and the Hachette Children's Novel Award (2020).

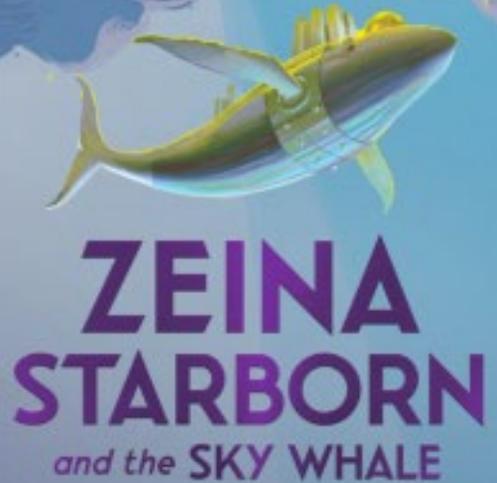
This is definitely one for the reading list. To explore more of Hannah's work, head over to your local bookshop or Amazon.



# Author to academy

Dear Reader

I am delighted to invite you to accompany Zeina Starborn on her adventure of a lifetime! Leave smog-filled Ravenport behind you as you travel above the clouds into a world of airships, explorers and magnificent sky whales.



Enjoy your cruise aboard the luxurious Willoughby whale - a city-sized hotel built upon the back of a flying whale! It's somewhere your wildest dreams could come true. But beware, it is also a world of spies, deadly plots, smog rat pirates and dangerous secrets. Zeina and her companion Jackson must overcome their differences and rethink everything they thought they knew if they are to survive their journey to the truth.

I hope you enjoy your sky whale adventure and I hope Zeina and Jackson will inspire you to be curious about the world around you, strive to do what you believe is right and have the courage to follow your dreams.

**HANNAH DURKAN**



# From page to screen

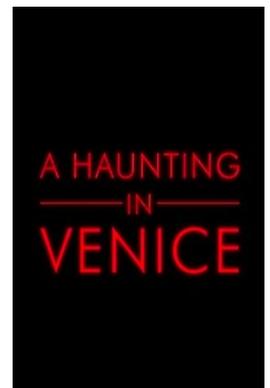


Branagh is back as world- renowned detective, Hercule Poirot!

In the latest instalment, based on Agatha Christie's 1969 novel *Hallowe'en Party*, join Poirot as he investigates the mysterious death of a guest at a séance. A perfect watch if you're looking for something spooky in the run-up to Halloween.



Starring the likes of Jamie Dornan, Michelle Yeoh and Emma Laird, this is set to hit the screens this September, so grab the popcorn and get comfy!





## ? DID YOU KNOW ?

James Joyce wrote with large blue pencils and crayons, laying on his stomach in bed, wearing a big white coat. This is likely attributable to his notoriously poor eyesight, for which he had twenty-five surgeries over the course of his life.

After publishing *The Book Thief*, Markus Zusak was able to support himself and his family on the royalties alone, for thirteen years. His next novel, *Bridge Of Clay*, is the only book he has published in his children's lifetimes.

Veronica Roth wrote her debut novel, *Divergent*, while on winter break from her studies at Northwestern. She sold the book before graduation, and film rights sold before the book's release.

George R.R. Martin has said that comic book legend Stan Lee is "the greatest literary influence on [him], even more than Shakespeare or Tolkien".



# 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

READ  
MORE  
BOOKS!

The  
**52**  
Book  
Club

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



# 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> <p>Bronze House Certificate + 50 Positive Points</p>	<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> <p>Silver House Certificate + 100 Positive Points</p>	<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>Gold House Certificate + 250 Positive Points</p>

# What's new?

## Non-fiction:

### *Oh Miriam!: Stories from an Extraordinary Life* by Miriam Margolyes

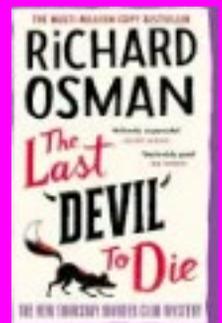
Ever outspoken, controversial and spectacularly entertaining, Britain's naughtiest national treasure and the author of *This Much is True* returns with more juicy, jaw-dropping stories from her eventful life and career.



## Fiction

### *The Last Devil to Die* by Richard Osman

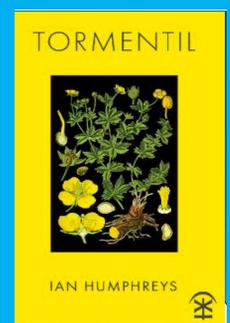
The geriatric sleuths of the Thursday Murder Club are faced with their most dangerous case yet when the disappearance of a highly dangerous package sends the body count spiralling in Osman's irresistible fourth crime caper.



## Poetry

### *Tormentil* by Ian Humphreys

Isolated by grief in the first months of the pandemic, Humphreys goes in search of hope and blessings among the burnt heather, tumbledown mills and canal locks near his home in the Calder Valley.



# Pupil Recommendations



## *Five Survive* by Holly Jackson

From the author of *the Good Girl's Guide to Murder* trilogy comes a gripping cat-and-mouse thriller fizzing with suspense, as a group of friends en-route to the beach end up in the crosshairs of a deadly sniper.



## *Emerald and the Ocean Parade* by Harriet Muncaster

From the creator of *Isadora Moon* comes an enchanting new series set in the same world focusing on Emerald, a reluctant mermaid princess who must learn to do things her own way.



## *Belladonna* by Adalyn Grace

The popular fantasy author delivers a novel with a deeply atmospheric story of sinister estates and poisoned matriarchs that merges gothic phantasmagoria with chilling murder mystery.



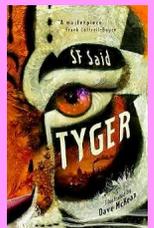
## *Girl, Goddess, Queen* by Bea Fitzgerald

Tearing up the Greek myth of Persephone with irresistible exuberance, rising TikTok star Fitzgerald crafts an irreverent romcom retelling where Demeter's headstrong daughter feels the heat with a seriously smoking Hades.



## *Tyger* by SF Said

From the acclaimed author of *Varjak Paw* comes a compelling story of a world on the brink of destruction and the magical animal discovered in a London rubbish dump that might just be able to save it.

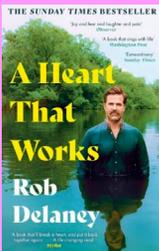


# Staff Recommendations



## *A Heart That Works* by Rob Delaney

Actor and writer Rob Delaney's profoundly moving memoir about losing his son Henry to a brain tumour is an honest, graceful account of a harrowing experience and a solace to those who have faced devastation.



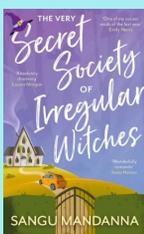
## *Bournville* by Jonathan Coe

Seventy-five years of post-war British history deftly interrogated through the fortunes of one Birmingham family in this wonderfully witty and insightful novel from the author of *The Rotters' Club* and *Middle England*.



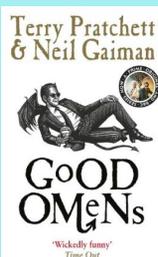
## *The Very Secret Society of Irregular Witches* by Sangu Mandanna

Orphan Mika arrives at the remote Nowhere House, filled with mysterious residents, to find something she didn't realise she was looking for in Mandanna's gorgeous fantasy romance drenched in sparkling magic.



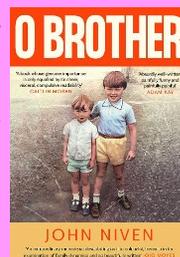
## *Good Omens* by Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman

With its impeccable comedic structure and zinging one-liners, *Good Omens* is the result of the kind of dream collaboration that so rarely gets realised. Pooling everything that is so great about Pratchett and Gaiman's writing into a freewheeling tale of the apocalypse, the antichrist and the disturbingly specific prophecies of a 17th century witch.



## *O Brother* by John Niven

From the author of *Kill Your Friends* and *Straight White Male* comes a tender and affecting memoir laced with Niven's trademark jet-black humour, as he chronicles both his own turbulent upbringing and that of his tragic, troubled little brother Gary who took his own life at the age of just 42.



# What are they reading?

## the office

**Michael Scott**

***Shoe Dog* by Phil Knight**



Despite his move away from Dunder Mifflin, there is no doubt that Michael would still have a flair for business. During his time in the paper industry, Michael made multiple, creative business ventures, and Knight's book may be ideal to get the creative juices flowing again. For the first time, Phil Knight spells out the complete story behind that success, peeling back the gloss of a global multinational to reveal the pitfalls and glories of founding – and building – Nike.



**Dwight Schrute**

***Honor Among Thieves: The Road to Neverwinter* by Jaleigh Johnson**



After the release of the best-selling 2023 film, Dwight's love of the cult classic Dungeons and Dragons may make a welcome return. A powerful prequel to *Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves*, *The Road to Neverwinter* reveals the thrilling origin stories of Edgin, Holga and the motley crew who join them on their mission against monsters across the realms.



**Jim Halpert**

***Revolution: The Rise of Arteta's Arsenal* by Charles Watts**



After his move into the Sports Marketing industry, a little football insight from across the pond may be just what Jim needs to expand on an international scale. This is the story of how Mikel Arteta turned Arsenal into one of the most exciting, innovative and feared teams in the league. From cutting his teeth as an assistant under Pep Guardiola before joining Arsenal in the winter of 2019, through to title contenders years later - including bust-ups, Covid, disappointments, FA Cup wins, fan revolt, and eventually the rise of an extraordinary young team standing on the edge of greatness - this book will be the first of its kind to explore the workings of Arteta's philosophy and how he transformed the club from outsiders to title challengers.

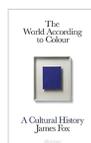


**Pam Beesly**

***The World According to Colour: A Cultural History* by James Fox**



As a passionate artist, this could be the perfect read for Pam. In Fox's latest instalment, each chapter immerses the reader in a single colour, drawing together stories from the histories of art and humanity to illuminate the meanings it has been given over the eras and around the globe.



**Angela Martin**

***What You Are Looking for is in the Library* by Michiko Aoyama**



As she settles into marital bliss with Dwight, Angela may find some down time to peruse some new titles, and the latest instalment from Aoyama could be the ideal match. Sayuri Komachi is no ordinary librarian. Sensing exactly what someone is searching for in life, she provides just the book recommendation to help them find it. Could you think of anything more perfect?



# Local Libraries

## Epic! Children's Library

Epic! is the award-winning online library for children and parents alike. Are you trying to encourage your child into reading, or would you want them to become more confident with their reading as they move throughout school? Epic! offers a wide range of books, audiobooks and learning videos.

As well as that, videos are also available for parents, carers and educators if you need a helping hand with what to read with your child next. You never know, they might discover a new favourite. For more information, visit <https://www.getepic.com/>.

Happy reading!

The logo for Epic! is written in a bold, blue, lowercase sans-serif font. The exclamation mark is a solid blue shape.

# First liners



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

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

2. I hear the crack of his skull before the spattering of blood reaches me.

3. 'That's three for me,' Brekin says, dropping his Xbox controller.

4. The Grandmother didn't want to go to Florida.

5 As I sit here with one foot on either side of the ledge, looking down from twelve stories above the streets of Boston, I can't help but think about suicide.

6. I have just returned from a visit to my landlord-the solitary neighbour that I shall be troubled with.

7. She was already inside the elevator when it entered.

8. "I think it's down there," Mum says.

9 The swear wis lashing oafay Sick Boy; he wis trembling.



# Word of the Month

## Assay

(Origin: Old French)

*Assay* is a technical word meaning 'to test something (such as a metal or drug) to find out what it contains or to assess its value.'

Sometimes, this word is confused with 'essay'. They come from the same root, the Middle French word *essai*, meaning 'test' or 'effort.' (*Essai*, in turn, comes from the Late Latin word *exagium*, meaning 'act of weighing'). At one time, the two terms were synonyms, sharing the meaning 'try' or 'attempt,' but they are now typically differentiated, with *essay* meaning 'to try or attempt' (as in 'a comedic actor essaying her first dramatic role') and *assay* meaning 'to test or evaluate' (as in 'blood assayed to detect the presence of the antibody').



# 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

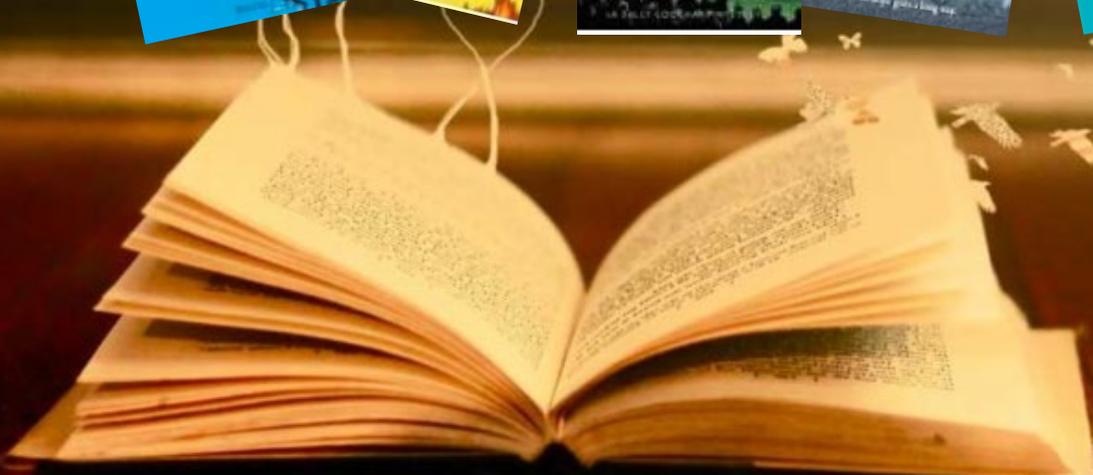
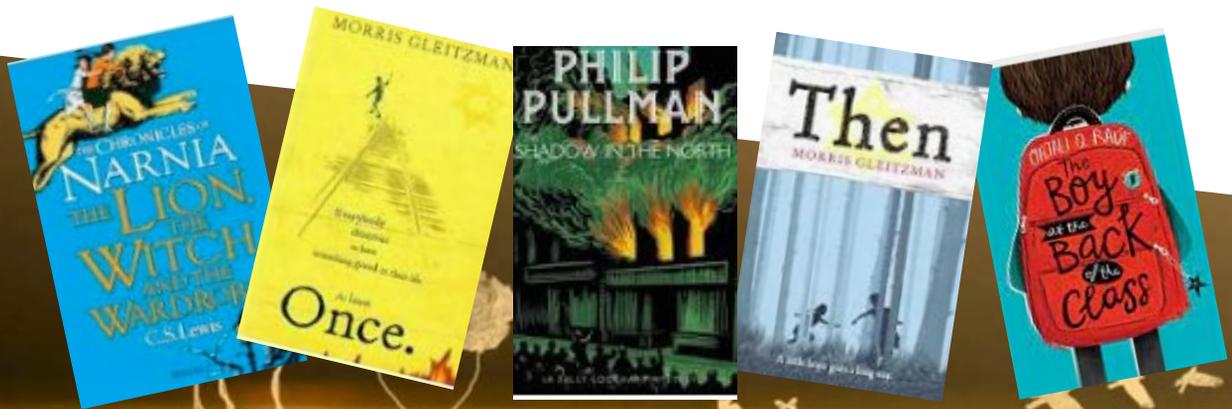
*The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis  
*Once* by Morris Gleitzman

## Year 8

*The Shadow in the North* by Philip Pullman  
*Then* by Morris Gleitzman

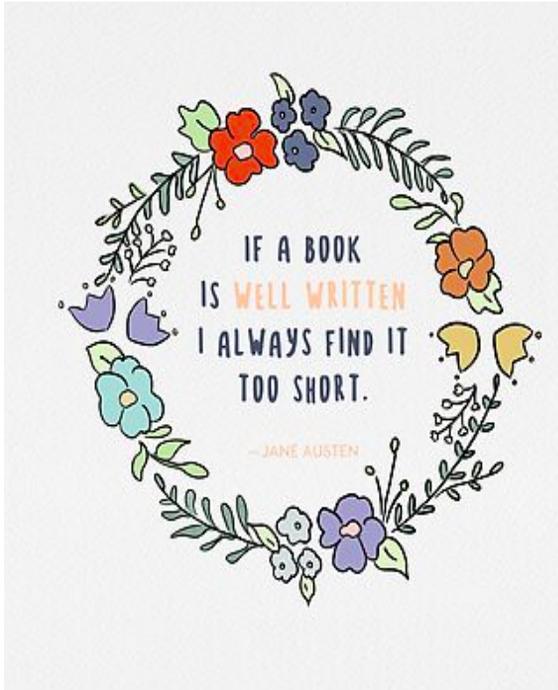
## Year 9

*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. With that in mind, I leave you with the wise words of Jane Austen:



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

\*Answers to First Lines:

1. *Private Peaceful* by Michael Morpurgo
2. *Verity* by Colleen Hoover
3. *Finding Perfect* by Colleen Hoover
4. *A Good Man is Hard to Find* by Flannery O'Connor
5. *It Ends With Us* by Colleen Hoover
6. *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë
7. *Cleopatra and Frankenstein* by Coco Mellors
8. *Happy Head* by Josh Silver
9. *Trainspotting* by Irvine Welsh

