



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our April edition of the library newsletter in which we will be celebrating Shakespeare's birthday in our Author of the Month feature, and the joys of Spring in Mrs Smallwood's Poem of the Month. We have some exciting news about Student Librarian vacancies and, as always, a selection of brilliant recommended reads to inspire you. The summer term is often very busy, and as the weather (hopefully) improves many of us spend more time outdoors. The recommended reads this month are all available as audiobooks on Sora so if you can listen on the go or whilst you're relaxing outdoors. Happy reading all!

Mrs Ireland

THE STUDENT LIBRARIANS' BOOK OF THE MONTH

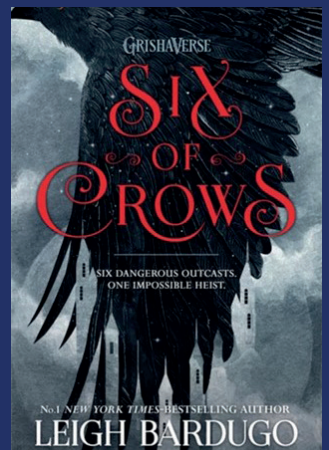
Six of Crows by Leigh Bardugo

'With every turn of the page, I found myself welcoming the characters into my heart more'

As far as dangerous missions undertaken to achieve near impossible goals are concerned, Kaz Brekker is certainly no novice. However, when he is approached by one of the most influential merchants in the bustling city of Ketterdam, Kaz is tasked with a heist so challenging that even he doubts his ability to accomplish it.

Yet his own greed and ambition as well as the promise of money beyond his wildest dreams soon win him over. As Kaz assembles his crew of thieves and criminals, they are all fully aware that this mission may be their last.

I'm not sure if my review will be able to do *Six of Crows* justice; quite simply this book was a joy to read. Leigh Bardugo's fascinating prose and stunning characterisation have, without a doubt placed, *Six of Crows* right up there as one of the best books I have ever read. Since every chapter is narrated from one of the different perspectives of our six protagonists, the reader is fully immersed in the thoughts and feelings of the main characters.



With every turn of the page, I found myself welcoming the characters into my heart more and more. By the end of the novel, I really felt that I had gained quite an understanding of them all, as well as knowledge of their individual thought processes.

The plot was bursting with action and overflowing with suspense right from the beginning. From the very first words I was hooked on the story and even now it still lingers in my thoughts. Structured true to the format of a typical heist, you read on thinking you know everything. Only to find out that the group leader, Kaz, has a brand new trick up his sleeve. Fast paced and beautifully descriptive, I'm finding it impossible to think of anything I didn't like about *Six of Crows*.

The world building is phenomenal and the Grisha world is by far my favourite out of all the fantasy stories I have read. The attention to detail is amazing; I love how each country has its own language and traditions. The transitions between chapters and points of view were immaculate and really provided a sense of urgency and impact to the most significant scenes.

I adored reading this book and I'm still very much in love with it! I would definitely recommend it to anyone who likes the idea of an intriguing fantasy world, a dazzling heist and protagonists that are resplendent in their individuality and characterisation.

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**Chosen by Olivia /
Review taken From The Guardian**



LATEST NEWS

Library Opening Hours

| | Before School 8.00am-8.30pm | Break 10.35am-10.50am | Early/Late Lunch 11.50am-12.45pm | Home Learning Club 2.40pm-4.00pm |
|-----------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| MONDAY | OPEN | OPEN | OPEN | OPEN |
| TUESDAY | OPEN | OPEN | OPEN | OPEN |
| WEDNESDAY | OPEN | OPEN | CLOSED | OPEN |
| THURSDAY | OPEN | OPEN | OPEN | OPEN |
| FRIDAY | OPEN | OPEN | OPEN | CLOSED |

NOTICE TO YEAR 11 STUDENTS

Remember that you must get your library stamp in your passport!

- Please check at home for any library books you may have and bring them into the library to be scanned back in.
- Make sure that you return books at the desk – do not put them directly on the shelf or on the blue trolley as they will then remain on your account.
- Once you have returned all your books and got your library stamp in your passport you will no longer be able to borrow any books from the school library.
- You will NOT be fined for any late books so please do not worry if they are overdue.



STUDENT LIBRARIAN RECRUITMENT

Very soon we will be taking applications for Student Librarians to start in September 2023. To find out more about the role please read below.

What do Student Librarians do?

- Attend meetings with the rest of the team to discuss events and plans for the library
- Undertake training to understand how the library works
- Break and lunch duties in the library re-shelve books, help students and staff with queries, loan/return books, tidy the shelves and make sure the books are in order
- Help organise and run library events throughout the year
- Complete tasks, activities and training to gain First, Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards

Why become a Student Librarian?

- Learn more about your school library
- Help other students
- Promote the library within the school
- Demonstrate leadership
- Organise and take part in fun events
- Develop ideas and projects
- Have a say in what your library stocks
- Work towards nationally recognised awards which can be listed in applications
- Make a positive contribution to school life

Who can apply to be a Student Librarian?

- Any student currently in Year 7-10 can apply to become a Student Librarian
- Students will be shortlisted based on their applications

When can I apply to become a Student Librarian?

- Applications will open in May – please keep an eye on the Student Bulletin for more information about how to apply and the deadline for applications



**YOUR
SCHOOL
LIBRARY
NEEDS YOU**



AUTHOR OF THE MONTH

William Shakespeare 1564-1616

William Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon, England, in April 1564. The exact date of his birth is not recorded, but it is most often celebrated around the world on 23 April.

John Shakespeare married Mary Arden, and together they had eight children. John and Mary lost two daughters as infants, so William became their eldest child. John Shakespeare worked as a glove-maker, but he also became an important figure in the town of Stratford by fulfilling civic positions. His elevated status meant that he was even more likely to have sent his children, including William, to the local grammar school.

William Shakespeare would have lived with his family in their house on Henley Street until he turned eighteen. When he was eighteen, Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway, who was twenty-six. It was a rushed marriage because Anne was already pregnant at the time of the ceremony. Together they had three children. Their first daughter, Susanna, was born six months after the wedding and was later followed by twins Hamnet and Judith. Hamnet died when he was just 11 years old.

During his time in London, Shakespeare became a founding member of The Lord Chamberlain's Men, a company of actors. Shakespeare was the company's regular dramatist, producing on average two plays a year, for almost twenty years.

He remained with the company for the rest of his career, during which time it evolved into The King's Men under the patronage of King James I (from 1603). During his time in the company Shakespeare wrote many of his most famous tragedies, such as *King Lear* and *Macbeth*, as well as great romances, like *The Winter's Tale* and *The Tempest*.

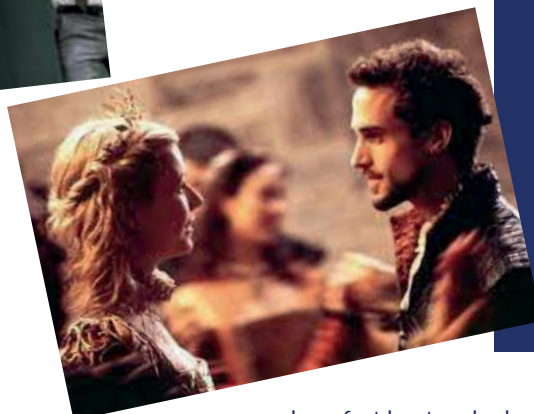




AUTHOR OF THE MONTH CONTINUED

Shakespeare's success in the London theatres made him considerably wealthy, and by 1597 he was able to purchase New Place, the largest house in the borough of Stratford-upon-Avon. Although his professional career was spent in London, he maintained close links with his native town.

Shakespeare died in Stratford-upon-Avon on 23 April 1616 at the age of 52. He is buried in the sanctuary of the parish church, Holy Trinity. Opposite are images of The Globe Theatre on London's South Bank. It is an amazing place to visit, so do go if you ever get the chance! It is an opportunity to see the plays performed in the same way Shakespeare's audience got to see them!



Shakespeare Resources:

Five Great Plays to Read

1. Hamlet
2. Romeo and Juliet
3. The Merchant of Venice
4. Henry V
5. Twelfth Night

Five Great Films to see/stream

1. Shakespeare in Love (Joseph Fiennes)
2. The Merchant of Venice (Jeremy Irons)
3. Romeo and Juliet (Leonardo DiCaprio)
4. Henry V (Tom Hiddleston)
5. Hamlet (Andrew Scott)

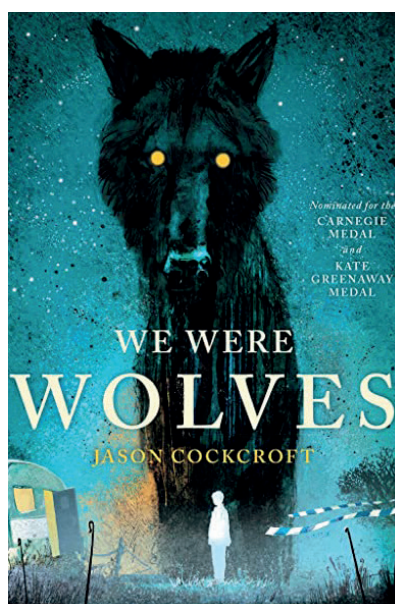
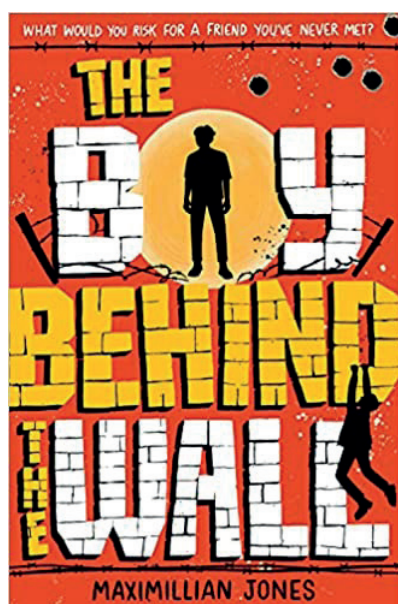
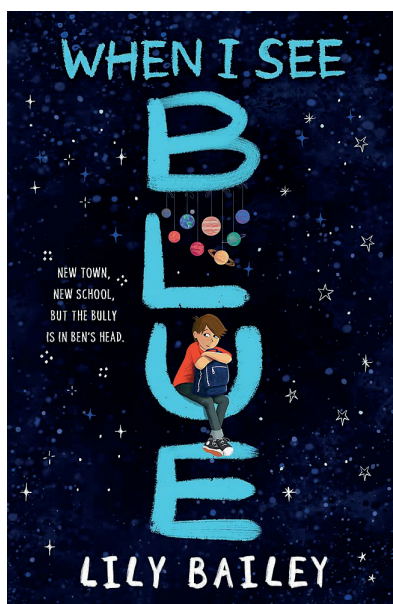
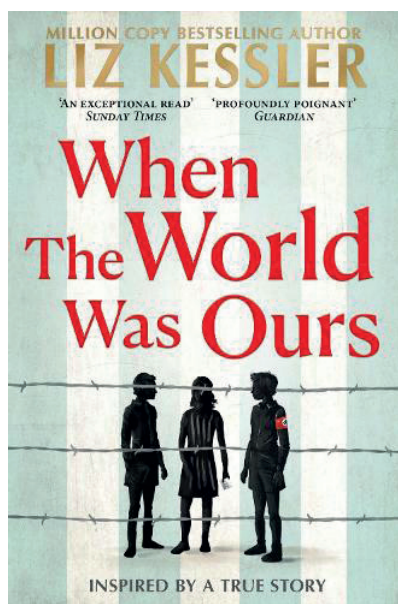


LIBRARY EVENTS

Hampshire Book Award

We have a number of Year 8 students taking part in the Hampshire Book Award (HBA) this term. HBA is a prestigious award held annually and is judged solely by Year 8 students across Hampshire. The shortlist of 6 books consists of paperback fiction titles published in the previous year. Past winners include *The Hunger Games*, *Lockwood & Co* and *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief* - all before they were famous!

This year's shortlist (pictured) includes an eclectic mixture of themes from war to mental health to slavery. Students taking part will read all six shortlisted books and attend regular meetings in the library to discuss each book. They will evaluate each book using the criteria in their Judge's Handbook and will finally attend the voting event in June and be one of the students who chooses the HBA 2023 winner. We look forward to updating you on the progress of our HBA students!





MRS SMALLWOOD'S POEM OF THE MONTH

I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud - William Wordsworth

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
when all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

Link: ["Daffodils" by William Wordsworth](#)
(read by Ralph Fiennes)

This poem celebrates the beauty of spring. Wordsworth is wandering in the landscape and stuck by the brilliant colour of the daffodils; these flowers lift his spirits. I think there is something particularly poignant about them because they bloom for such a short time and then wither. This poem captures the moment when they are at their brightest and best. The poet uses the word 'float' to emphasize his aimless drifting. When Wordsworth uses the word 'host' there is quite possibly a glimmer of religious meaning. Does he, Wordsworth, see God in nature? Quite possibly!

Wordsworth emphasizes the joyous quality of the daffodils as they are almost personified: they have 'heads' that seem to 'dance' in the breeze. The waves beside them danced; but they Out-did the sparkling waves in glee: A poet could not but be gay, In such a jocund company: I gazed—and gazed—but little thought What wealth the show to me had brought: Again, the daffodils are both seamlessly part of the surrounding landscape (the waves of the water dance like the daffodils) and yet somehow transcending their surroundings. The next time you see daffodils think of this poem.





MRS IRELAND'S RECOMMENDED READS

Blood to Poison by Mary Watson

Seventeen-year-old Savannah is cursed. It's a sinister family heirloom; passed down through the bloodline for hundreds of years, with one woman in every generation destined to die young. The family call them Hella's girls, named for their ancestor Hella; the enslaved woman with whom it all began. Hella's girls are always angry, especially in the months before they die. The anger is bursting from Savannah - at the men who cat-call her in the street, at her mother's disingenuous fiancé, even at her own loving family. Each fit of rage is bringing her closer to the edge and now Savannah has to act to save herself. Or die trying. Because the key to survival lies in the underbelly of Cape Town, where the sinister veilwitches are waiting for just such a girl. *Blood to Poison* is a furious and mesmerising story about discovering magic, historical rage and love in all its guises.

Available as an audiobook on Sora.



Swimming on the Moon by Brian Conaghan

Twelve-year-old Anna's parents are going through a rough patch, but Anna can't let them split up. Not when it might mean living apart from Anto, her twin brother. Anto might be a boy, and he might not speak (except using Lego bricks), and he might carry a coat hanger about like it's his closest friend, but that doesn't stop the two of them being like peas in a pod. It's a twin thing, and nobody's going to separate them. So Anna hatches a plan: get the whole family on a plane to Italy. Her parents have always been happiest on holiday. How can they fail to fall back in love at a swanky hotel with an actual pool to swim in and everything! But when Anna discovers more about why her family has grown apart, suddenly a happy holiday in Italy seems about as likely as swimming on the moon ...

Swimming on the Moon is a beautifully written story with a wonderful protagonist in Anna. This is a great choice for those who enjoy an emotive and real-life based read.

Available as an audiobook on Sora





MRS IRELAND'S RECOMMENDED READS CONTINUED

The Ministry of Unladylike Activity by Robin Stevens

1940. The world is at war, and a secret arm of the British government called the Ministry of Unladylike Activity is training up spies.

Enter May Wong: courageous, stubborn, and desperate to help end the war so that she can go home to Hong Kong (and leave her annoying school, Deepdean, behind forever). May knows that she would make the perfect spy. After all, grown-ups always underestimate children like her.

When May and her friend Eric are turned away by the Ministry, they take matters into their own hands. Masquerading as evacuees, they travel to Elysium Hall, home to the wealthy Verey family - including snobby, dramatic Nuala. They suspect that one of the Vereys is passing information to Germany. If they can prove it, the Ministry will have to take them on.

But there are more secrets at Elysium Hall than May or Eric could ever have imagined. And then, someone is murdered...

If you enjoyed Robin Stevens' infamous 'Murder Most Unladylike' series you will not be disappointed by her latest book. This is an excellent read for anyone who loves a mystery or thriller novel.

Available as an audiobook on Sora

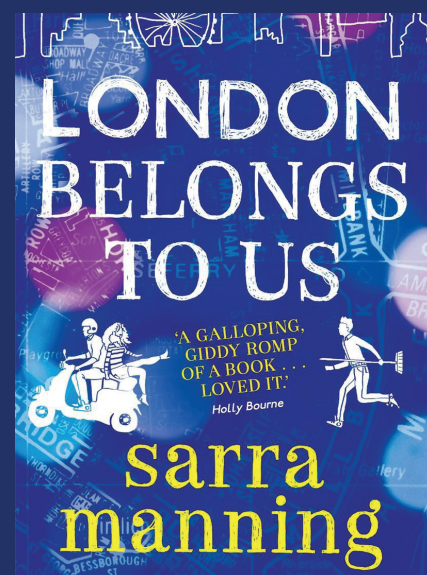


London Belongs to Us by Sara Manning

Seventeen-year-old Sunny's always been a little bit of a pushover. But when she's sent a picture of her boyfriend kissing another girl, she knows she's got to act. What follows is a mad, twelve-hour dash around London - starting at 8pm in Crystal Palace (so far away from civilisation you can't even get the Tube there) then sweeping through Camden, Shoreditch, Soho, Kensington, Notting Hill . . . and ending up at 8am in Alexandra Palace. Along the way Sunny meets a whole host of characters she never dreamed she'd have anything in common with - least of all the devilishly handsome (and somewhat vain) French 'twins' (they're really cousins) Jean Luc and Vic. But as this love-letter to London shows, a city is only a sum of its parts, and really it's the people living there who make up its life and soul. And, as Sunny discovers, everyone - from friends, apparent-enemies, famous bands and even rickshaw drivers - is willing to help a girl on a mission to get her romantic retribution.

A fast-paced, darkly funny love letter to London, boys with big hair and the joys of staying up all night.

Available as an audiobook on Sora





MRS IRELAND'S RECOMMENDED READS CONTINUED

The Monkey Who Fell From the Future by Ross Welford

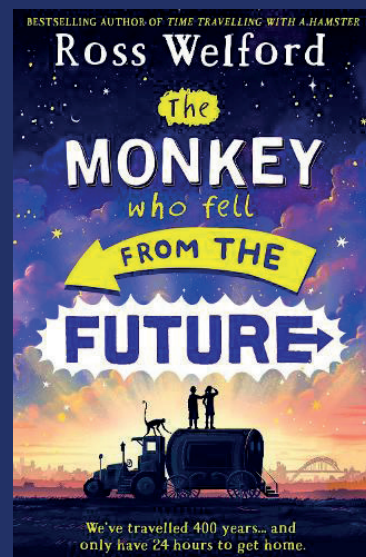
The year is 2425. Centuries after a catastrophic meteor collision, nature has retaken the earth. In a small town in what was once England, young Ocean Mooney and the monkey-owning Duke Smiff have just dug up a 400 year-old tablet computer.

Meanwhile, in the present day, Thomas Reeve and his genius cousin Kylie create the Time Tablet - a device which they hope will allow them to communicate with the future.

But when the Time Tablet malfunctions live on television, Thomas and Kylie are sucked into the year 2425 - and have only 24 hours to return home, and save the future of humanity.

A funny and light-hearted read that's still completely gripping, Welford's latest novel is perfect for fans of his previous books or anyone who fancies an entertaining story.

Available as an audiobook on Sora



MONTHLY CHALLENGE

This month your reading challenge is to read or listen to an audiobook for 15 minutes every day. Use the chart to track your reading by colouring in each 15 minutes read or writing how many minutes you have read for. You could even colour code what type of book you have read.

Did you know?
If you read for just 15 minutes a day, in a year
you will have read more than 1 million words!



www.soraapp.com

READING LOG

Month of: _____

Color in a box for every day you do your daily reading.

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"The more that you read, the more things
you will know. The more that you learn, the
more places you'll go."

-Dr. Seuss