



## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the last library newsletter of 2023 – how did we get there already? We have lots of exciting recommended reads for you this half term, including our Student Librarians' choice and a fantastic author pick. Our Genre Focus for this month is Fantasy, so if you fancy a magical read then check out our suggestions. Mrs Smallwood's poem of the half term has a festive theme to get you into the Christmas spirit and my recommended reads are perfect for a cosy evening indoors!

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to say my goodbyes as I am moving on to a new role in the near future. I have loved my time at the Henry Beaufort School and wish the school and students the very best wishes for the future.

Mrs Ireland

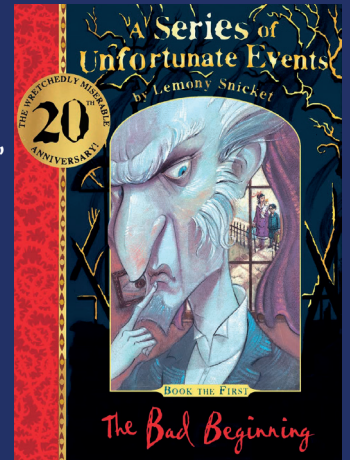
## STUDENT LIBRARIANS' BOOK OF THE HALF TERM

### A Series of Unfortunate Events by Lemony Snicket

#### Chosen by Elliot P

Dear reader, there is nothing to be found in Lemony Snicket's 'A Series of Unfortunate Events' but misery and despair. You still have time to choose another international best-selling series to read. But if you insist on discovering the unpleasant adventures of the Baudelaire orphans, then proceed with caution...

Violet, Klaus, and Sunny Baudelaire are intelligent children. They are charming, and resourceful, and have pleasant facial features. Unfortunately, they are exceptionally unlucky. In *The Bad Beginning*, the siblings encounter a greedy and repulsive villain, itchy clothing, a disastrous fire, a plot to steal their fortune and cold porridge for breakfast.



## OPENING TIMES

### 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	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	OPEN
TUESDAY	CLOSED	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
WEDNESDAY	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	OPEN
THURSDAY	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	OPEN
FRIDAY	CLOSED	OPEN	OPEN	CLOSED



## NEWS AND EVENTS

### Scholastic Book Fair – Postponed

Due to unforeseen circumstances the Scholastic Book Fair has been postponed until Spring (date TBC). Please keep an eye on our newsletter in the new year for the new date.



## AUTHOR OF THE MONTH

### Rick Riordan

#### About Rick Riordan

Rick Riordan is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of over twenty novels for young readers, including the Percy Jackson series.

For fifteen years, Rick taught English and history at public and private middle schools in the San Francisco Bay Area and in Texas. While teaching in San Antonio, Saint Mary's Hall honoured him with the school's first Master Teacher Award.

While teaching full time, Riordan began writing mystery novels for grownups. His Tres Navarre series went on to win the top three national awards in the mystery genre – the Edgar, the Anthony, and the Shamus. Riordan turned to children's fiction when he started The Lightning Thief as a bedtime story for his oldest son.

Today, over 190 million copies of his books are in print worldwide, and rights have been sold into more than 37 countries. Rick and his wife Becky are both executive producers overseeing TV/film adaptations of his works including Percy Jackson, the Kane Chronicles and Daughter of the Deep.

Rick Riordan now writes full-time. He lives in Boston with his wife and two sons.



## AUTHOR OF THE MONTH CONTINUED

### Percy Jackson and The Lightning Thief

#### An Extract

But if you recognize yourself in these pages-if you feel something stirring inside-stop reading immediately. You might be one of us. And once you know that, it's only a matter of time before they sense it too, and they'll come for you.

Don't say I didn't warn you.

My name is Percy Jackson.

I'm twelve years old. Until a few months ago, I was a boarding student at Yancy Academy, a private school for troubled kids in upstate New York.

Am I a troubled kid?

Yeah. You could say that.

I could start at any point in my short miserable life to prove it, but things really started going bad

last May, when our sixth-grade class took a field trip to Manhattan-twenty-eight mental-case kids and two teachers on a yellow school bus, heading to the Metropolitan Museum of Art to look at ancient Greek and Roman stuff.

I know-it sounds like torture. Most Yancy field trips were.

But Mr. Brunner, our Latin teacher, was leading this trip, so I had hopes.

Mr. Brunner was this middle-aged guy in a motorized wheelchair. He had thinning hair and a scruffy beard and a frayed tweed jacket, which always smelled like coffee. You wouldn't think he'd be cool, but he told stories and jokes and let us play games in class. He also had this awesome collection of Roman armour and weapons, so he was the only teacher whose class didn't put me to sleep.

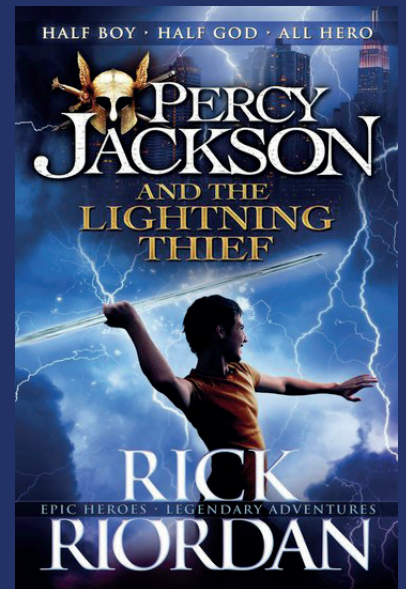
I hoped the trip would be okay. At least, I hoped that for once I wouldn't get in trouble.

Boy, was I wrong.

You will need to read the book to find out what happens next!

Rick Riordan talks about percy Jackson series

Please click on [this link](#) to view the video.





## GENRE FOCUS

### FANTASY

Fantasy literature is set in an imaginary universe, often but not always without any locations, events, or people from the real world. Magic, the supernatural and magical creatures are common in many of these imaginary worlds. Fantasy novels can crossover with a number of other genres - such as action, horror, romance and dystopian - making it one of the most versatile genres to read. Check out our display in the library to find your next fantasy read or select 'fantasy' on Sora to view available eBooks and audiobooks.

#### Great fantasy titles:

The Snow Girl by Sophie Anderson, The School for Good and Evil by Soman Chainani, A Pinch of Magic by Michelle Harrison and Skulduggery Pleasant by Derek Landy







## MRS SMALLWOOD'S POEM OF THE HALF TERM

### Account of a Visit from St. Nicholas

By Major Henry Livingston, JR.

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all thro' the house,  
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;  
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,  
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;  
The children were nestled all snug in their beds,  
While visions of sugar plums danc'd in their heads,  
And Mama in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,  
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap —  
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,  
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.  
Away to the window I flew like a flash,  
Tore open the shutters, and threw up the sash.  
The moon on the breast of the new fallen snow,  
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below;  
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,  
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny rein-deer,  
With a little old driver, so lively and quick,  
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.  
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,  
And he whistled, and shouted, and call'd them by name:  
"Now! Dasher, now! Dancer, now! Prancer, and Vixen,  
"On! Comet, on! Cupid, on! Dunder and Blixem;  
"To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!  
"Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"  
As dry leaves before the wild hurricane fly,  
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky;  
So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,  
With the sleigh full of Toys — and St. Nicholas too:  
And then in a twinkling, I heard on the roof  
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.

As I drew in my head, and was turning around,  
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound:  
He was dress'd all in fur, from his head to his foot,  
And his clothes were all tarnish'd with ashes and soot;  
A bundle of toys was flung on his back,  
And he look'd like a peddler just opening his pack:  
His eyes — how they twinkled! his dimples how merry,  
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry;

His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow.  
And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow;  
The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,  
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath.  
He had a broad face, and a little round belly  
That shook when he laugh'd, like a bowl full of jelly:  
He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,  
And I laugh'd when I saw him in spite of myself;

A wink of his eye and a twist of his head  
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.  
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,  
And fill'd all the stockings; then turn'd with a jerk,  
And laying his finger aside of his nose  
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.  
He sprung to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,  
And away they all flew, like the down of a thistle:  
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight —  
Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night.

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN TO](#)

"TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS - NARRATED BY MICHAEL BUBLÉ





## MRS SMALLWOOD'S POEM OF THE HALF TERM CONTINUED

'Twas The Night Before Christmas was written by Charles Clement Moore in 1822 and originally titled A Visit From St Nicholas. It is a much-loved Christmas poem and it is a tradition, even today, for many American families to read this story on Christmas Eve. This poem has shaped our image of Christmas and Father Christmas himself. 'Twas The Night Before Christmas was the first time the jolly fellow in red was associated with reindeer!

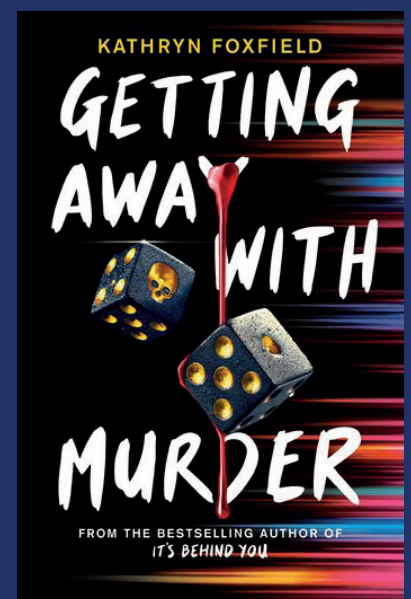
In the early 19th century Father Christmas had been seen as a reveller in need of charity but in Victorian England he became associated with gift giving and Christmas; as Christmas evolved from simple Christian festival to a festive holiday with feasting and drinking, the perception of Santa changed too, and this poem was influential in this evolution. For me, the poem captures a rather sentimentalised vision of Christmas, but one close to my heart.

## MRS IRELANDS RECOMMENDED READS

### Getting Away with Murder by Kathryn Foxfield

Walking disaster Saffron and her perfectionist twin sister Georgia have only one thing in common—they are both obsessed with battle royale video game Sole Survivor. While working at a brand new, high tech escape room complex, Saffron poses a question to the resident AI: which high school stereotype would survive the longest in a real life version of Sole Survivor? She is convinced a rebel like her would beat a know-it-all like Georgia. Unbeknown to her, the AI decides to determine the answer to her question by testing it out for real. It invites Saffron and Georgia's gamer friends to a preview of the escape rooms, but then it locks the doors and turns the rooms into a life-or-death battle to be the last player standing. The rebel, the know-it-all, the princess, the jock, the geek, the weirdo, the star, the artist and the criminal. Just like in Sole Survivor, only one can survive the night...

Kathryn Foxfield's new thriller is the perfect read for fans of Holly Jackson and Karen McManus. This novel will have you on the edge of your seat until the last page!



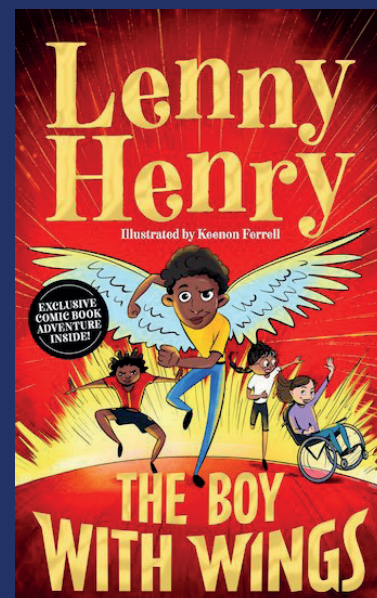


## MRS IRELANDS RECOMMENDED READS

### The Boy with Wings by Lenny Henry

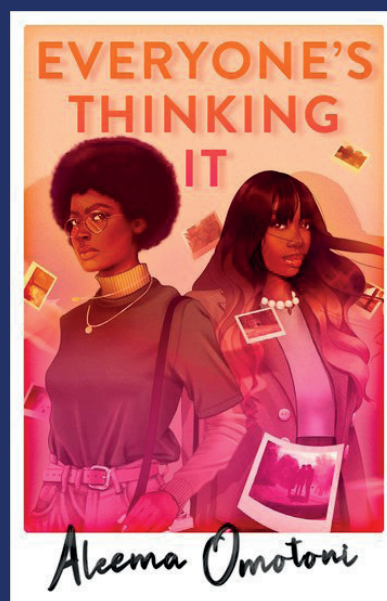
Wings? Check. A super-cool, super-secret past? Check. An impossible mission to save the world from a fur-ocious enemy? Check. When Tunde sprouts wings and learns he's all that stands between Earth and total destruction, suddenly school is the least of his problems. Luckily, his rag-tag group of pals have got his back, and with his new powers, Tunde is ready to fly in the face of danger. So what if he can't even stand up to the school bully? He's the boy with wings – this is his destiny. No pressure then. . .

Written by comedy legend, Lenny Henry, this is the perfect light-hearted read for younger secondary readers. If you love an action-packed adventure this is the book for you.



### Everyone's Thinking It by Aleema Omotoni

At an elite boarding school in the English countryside, Nigerian cousins Iyanu and Kitan are thrown into the middle of a schoolwide conspiracy when everyone's juicy secrets are released "Burn Book style" the week before the annual Valentine's Day Ball... Within the walls of Wodebury Hall, reputation is everything. But aspiring photographer Iyanu is more comfortable observing things safely from behind her camera. For Iyanu's estranged cousin Kitan, life seems perfect. She has money, beauty and friends like queen bee Heather. But as a Nigerian girl in a school as white and insular as Wodebury, Kitan struggles with the personal sacrifices needed to keep her place – and the protection she gets – within the exclusive popular crowd. Then, photos from Iyanu's camera are stolen and splashed across the school – each with a juicy secret written on it. With everyone's dirty laundry suddenly out in the open, the school explodes in chaos, and the whispers accusing Iyanu of being the one behind it all start to feel like déjà vu. Each girl is desperate to unravel the mystery of who stole the photos and why. But exposing the truth will change them all forever.



This brilliantly written story of rumours and lies, intertwined with themes romance and friendship, is a brilliant contemporary read. Everyone's Thinking It doesn't shy away from issues surrounding identity, race, gender and mental health and is perfect for readers who like gritty stories.



## MRS IRELANDS RECOMMENDED READS

### Five Survive by Holly Jackson

Eighteen year old Red and her friends are on a road trip in an RV, heading to the beach for Spring Break.

Spirits are high. Until the RV breaks down in the middle of nowhere. And as the wheels are shot out, one by one, the friends realise that this is no accident.

There's a sniper out there. He's watching them and he knows exactly who they are. One of the group has a secret that the sniper is willing to kill for.

As a game of cat-and-mouse plays out, the group desperately tries to get help. Buried secrets are forced to light and tensions within the group reach deadly levels. Only one thing is for sure. Not everyone will survive the night . . .

Holly Jackson's latest fast-paced thriller will have you hooked from start to finish. If you are a fan of A Good Girl's Guide to murder you won't be disappointed in Five Survive.

