



## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the May edition of the Henry Beaufort Library Newsletter. This month we have some fantastic recommended reads just in time for (a hopefully sunny) half term, as well as our usual monthly features including a look at the brilliant Cathy Cassidy as our Author of the Month. We have some updates on Teen Book Reviewer and Hampshire Book Award and to finish a challenge related to Empathy Day (8th June). I hope you enjoy this month's newsletter and had a lovely half term break.

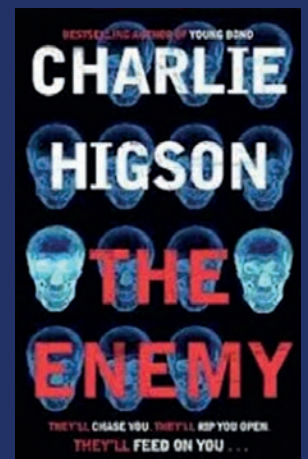
Mrs Ireland

## THE STUDENT LIBRARIANS' BOOK OF THE MONTH

### Extract of *The Enemy* by Charlie Higson

Small Sam was playing in the parking lot behind the Waitrose supermarket when the grown-ups took him. He'd been with some of the little kids, having a battle with an odd assortment of action figures, when it happened. They weren't supposed to play outside without a guard, but it was a lovely sunny day and the little kids got bored indoors. Sam wasn't the youngest of the group, but he was the smallest. That's why they called him Small Sam. There had originally been two other Sams, Big Sam and Curly Sam, who had curly hair. Big Sam had been killed a few months ago, but Small Sam was stuck with the name.

It was probably because of his size that the grown-ups went for him. They were like that—they picked out the youngsters, the weaklings, the little ones. In the panic of the attack the rest of Sam's gang got back safely inside, but Sam was cut off and the roving pack of grown-ups trapped him in a corner.



## LATEST NEWS

### Library Opening Hours

|           | Before School<br>8.00am-8.30pm | Break<br>10.35am-10.50am | Early/Late Lunch<br>11.50am-12.45pm | Home Learning Club<br>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                              |



## LATEST NEWS CONTINUED

### Teen Book Reviewer

We have new titles in our Teen Book Reviewer collection – come along to the library and see what we've got!

Teen Book Reviewer is an unofficial 'club' of Y10 and Y11 students who get first refusal on our new T+ stock. All you have to do is scan the QR code on the bookmark and leave a short review of the book once you've finished it. There's no pressure to read every new book throughout the year, you can review one or ten!

### **BREAKING NEWS:** TBR is also now open to Y9!

If you are in Y9, love reading fiction and want to have a say on what we have on our school library shelves, sign up to become a Teen Book Reviewer now.

## 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.



## AUTHOR OF THE MONTH

### Cathy Cassidy

I was born in 1962 in Coventry (scarily ancient, I know). I wrote my first picture book for my little brother when I was eight or nine. I loved making comics, too – pages and pages of picture stories, features and competitions. I'd sell my homemade comic to a friend for 5p, then claim it back and sell it again to someone else, they didn't have photocopiers back then!

I went to Art College in Liverpool, then got a job as fiction editor on the fab and legendary Jackie magazine. Later, I married my boyfriend Liam, went back to college and trained to be an art teacher. I taught in a Coventry secondary school for a few years, which I loved, then moved to Scotland with Liam to start a family. For 12 years I was the agony aunt for teen mag Shout, as well as teaching art in several local primary schools, but these days the books take up pretty much all of my time and attention.

My kids are grown up now, and after many years living in the beautiful Galloway hills in Scotland, we now live on Merseyside in a cool Victorian house that looks out over a park. When I look out of my writing room window I can see swans and geese on the lake... awww!

I've been veggie for over 30 years, and was vegan for 10 of them – a chocolate-eating vegan, like Storm! I love old clothes, old toys, cars, books. We have two dogs called Ziggy & Finn and a cat called Pepper. In some of the pics below you can see my dog Kelpie, who sadly died recently after a bad fall in the park chasing squirrels. (She didn't catch any, don't worry, and she was sixteen, which is very old for a big dog.)

I love my family, I love my animals, my home and my work. Of all my jobs, writing has to be the best – it's the perfect excuse to daydream, after all!

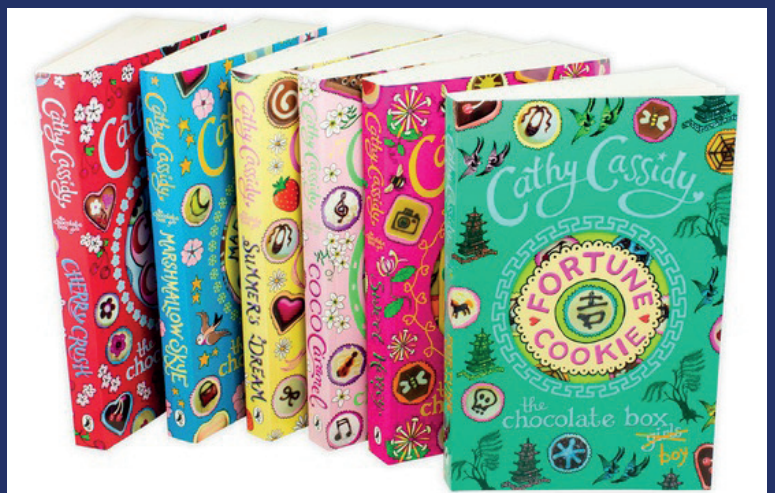
Cathy Recommends...

#### **For younger teens...**

The Weight Of Water by Sarah Crossan.  
Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli  
The Misfits by James Howe  
Love That Dog by Sharon Creech  
Love, Aubrey by Suzanne La Fleur  
Once & Then by Morris Gleitzman

#### **For older teens.....**

Solace of The Road by Siobhan Dowd  
Delerium by Lauren Oliver  
How I Live Now by Meg Rosoff  
You Don't Know Me by David Klass



**Puffin Storytime | Cherry Crush | Cathy Cassidy**



## LIBRARY EVENTS

### Hampshire Book Award

HBA is progressing here at Henry Beaufort with most of our participants much of the way through the read-list. The students have met and discussed the books they have read, with excellent consideration for the judging criteria. We are looking forward to attending the voting event at the end of June where our students will get to meet with their peers from other schools to discuss the books before they vote for their winner.



## MRS SMALLWOOD'S POEM OF THE MONTH

### In Mrs Tilcher's Class - Carol Ann Duffy

You could travel up the Blue Nile  
with your finger, tracing the route  
while Mrs Tilscher chanted the scenery.  
Tana. Ethiopia. Khartoum. Aswân.  
That for an hour, then a skittle of milk  
and the chalky Pyramids rubbed into dust.  
A window opened with a long pole.  
The laugh of a bell swung by a running child.

This was better than home. Enthralling books.  
The classroom glowed like a sweet shop.  
Sugar paper. Coloured shapes. Brady and Hindley  
faded, like the faint, uneasy smudge of a mistake.  
Mrs Tilscher loved you. Some mornings, you found  
she'd left a good gold star by your name.  
The scent of a pencil slowly, carefully, shaved.  
A xylophone's nonsense heard from another form.

Over the Easter term, the inky tadpoles changed  
from commas into exclamation marks. Three frogs  
hopped in the playground, freed by a dunce,  
followed by a line of kids, jumping and croaking  
away from the lunch queue. A rough boy  
told you how you were born. You kicked him, but  
stared at your parents, appalled, when you got back  
home.

That feverish July, the air tasted of electricity.  
A tangible alarm made you always untidy, hot,  
fractious under the heavy, sexy sky. You asked her

how you were born and Mrs Tilscher smiled,  
then turned away. Reports were handed out.  
You ran through the gates, impatient to be grown,  
as the sky split open into a thunderstorm.

I love this poem because it recreates the young  
child's experience of being in the classroom very  
vividly indeed. Miss Tilscher is clearly a very gifted  
teacher and captures the imagination of her class by  
making the learning continually active. The pupils  
actually touch the map of the world, they observe the  
tadpole becoming a frog and she rewards them freely  
for excellent work with a shiny gold star.

The poem comes to life because Duffy remembers  
the minute details of the school experience, such  
as the long window pole used to open the high  
windows of the Victorian schoolroom. She compares  
the classroom to a treat 'the classroom glowed like a  
sweetshop.' This simile shows that not only was the  
classroom brightly coloured with displays, but it was  
somewhere which fills children with excitement and  
delight. Another strength of the poem is the way it  
suggests the frenetic joy of the end of the summer  
term and couples this with tracing the emotional and  
intellectual development of a young person across a  
school year...

### [In Mrs Tilcher's Class Link](#)



## MRS IRELAND'S RECOMMENDED READS

"I don't remember the title but the cover was blue..."

### Twelve Minutes to Midnight by Christopher Edge

Penelope Tredwell is the feisty thirteen-year-old orphan heiress of the bestselling magazine, The Penny Dreadful. Her masterly tales of the macabre are gripping Victorian Britain, even if no one knows she's the author. One day, a letter she receives from the governor of the notorious Bedlam madhouse plunges her into an adventure more terrifying than anything she has ever imagined.

Why are the patients of Bedlam waking every night at twelve minutes to midnight? What is the meaning of the strange messages they write? Who is the Spider Lady of South Kensington?

Penelope is always seeking mysteries to fill the pages of her magazine. But this isn't any ordinary story, it's the future. And the future looks deadly...

Twelve Minutes to Midnight is a brilliantly gripping and suspenseful novel that will keep you intrigued until the very last page.



### The 1000-Year Old Boy by Ross Welford

There are stories about people who want to live forever.

This is not one of those stories.

This is a story about someone who wants to stop...

Alfie Monk is like any other nearly teenage boy - except he's 1,000 years old and can remember the last Viking invasion of England.

Obviously no one believes him.

So when everything Alfie knows and loves is destroyed in a fire, and the modern world comes crashing in, Alfie embarks on a mission to find friendship, acceptance, and a different way to live... which means finding a way to make sure he will eventually die.

A beautifully written story, ideal for Year 7/8 students who have enjoyed Welford's other books.





## MRS IRELAND'S RECOMMENDED READS CONTINUED

### The Keeper by Darragh Martin

Oisín is not sure he wants to be Keeper of the Book of Magic - but when his little sister Sorcha is kidnapped by the Morrigan, a raven-goddess with a heart as dark as her feathers, he has to learn how to use the Book for good and save his sister. Soon Oisín has a long journey ahead of him with only Stephen, his annoying older brother, and Antimony, a headstrong orphan with her own quest, to help him. Facing snow snakes, shadow fish, and mountains of wind, the three children have to decide whether or not they can trust each other if they want to reach the Morrigan's Hill of Bones before it's too late to get the last ever train home.

This fantasy thriller is a brilliant choice for fans of Harry Potter and Lord of the Rings.



### The Rest of the Story by Sarah Dessen

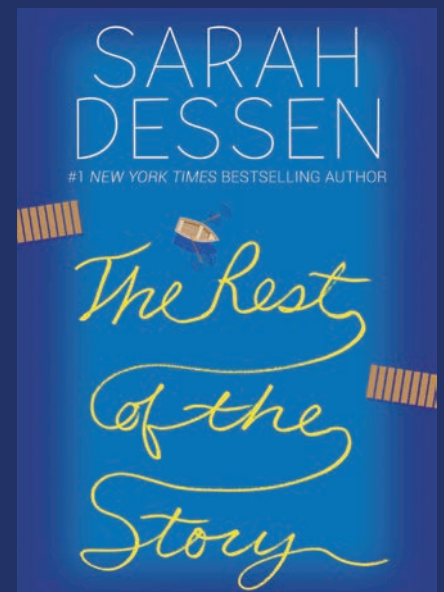
Emma Saylor doesn't remember a lot about her mother, who died when she was ten. But she does remember the stories her mom told her about the big lake that went on forever.

Now it's just Emma and her dad, and life is good, if a little predictable . . . until Emma is unexpectedly sent to spend the summer with her mother's family - her grandmother and cousins she hasn't seen since she was a little girl.

When Emma arrives at the Lake, and spends more time with her mother's side of the family, she starts to feel like she is two different people. To her father, she is Emma. But to her new family, she is Saylor, the name her mother always called her.

Then there's Roo, the boy who was her very best friend when she was little. Roo holds the key to her family's history, and slowly, he helps her put the pieces together about her past. It's hard not to get caught up in the magic of the Lake - and Saylor finds herself falling under Roo's spell as well.

Dessen is an excellent storyteller who writes brilliant characters, and this book is no exception. A perfect read for anyone who enjoys family-based fiction that doesn't shy away from big issues.





## MRS IRELAND'S RECOMMENDED READS CONTINUED

### Well, That Was Unexpected by Jesse Q Sutanto

Sharlot and George's story starts how all good love stories do - they're catfished by their own parents.

When Sharlot Citra is caught with her very hot (but very secret) boyfriend by her traditional mother, she finds herself whisked away from LA to Indonesia for a summer of 'getting back to her roots'. Or so her mother thinks.

Across the globe, George Clooney Tanuwijaya, tested with a name that is a daily embarrassment, is tested further when his father and sister, Eleanor Roosevelt, decide to take it upon themselves to find him a respectable girlfriend. His family-one of the wealthiest, most famed in Indonesia-has a reputation to uphold.

Sharlot and George's worlds collide when they discover that their parents have secretly been pretending to be them online. They agree to meet once, just to shut their parents up. But when the media gets wind of their date, things quickly spiral and the two families get swept up in a highly publicised stunt where everyone has a role to play. And a secret to keep.

This funny and light-hearted novel is a great book for fans of To All The Boys I Loved Before. It's completely unputdownable and a perfect relaxing summer



## MONTHLY CHALLENGE

Empathy Day 2023 is on Thursday 8th June.

Your literary challenge this month is to try reading one of the books in the 2023 Empathy Lab collection, which you can find here: [Empathy Day 2023](#).

The collection includes a variety of fiction, non-fiction, graphic novels, and short stories so there's sure to be one that appeals to every reader! Lots of titles are also available on Sora as eBooks or audiobooks.

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