

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Edition 7 of the Henry Beaufort Library Newsletter, which alongside our usual features includes everything you need to know about our World Book Day celebrations for 2023. There's also a brilliant article by Mrs Smallwood all about why you should try reading a classic. This includes an extensive list of recommended reads for you plus a detailed look at why Jane Eyre and Hamlet still matter in 2023. In celebration of International Women's Day coming up on 8th March my recommended reads in this newsletter are by my favourite female authors. Don't forget to check out Mrs Smallwood's Poem of the Month too – this month's is by the talented Rudyard Kipling. Happy reading everyone!

Mrs Ireland

THE STUDENT LIBRARIAN OF THE MONTH

Congratulations this month to Julia for earning Student of the Month for January. Julia is a dedicated and conscientious member of the Student Librarian team and has done a wonderful job of keeping her allocated sections of the library in beautiful order ready for students to browse for their next book. Well done Julia and thank you for your work.

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





THEME OF THE MONTH: READ A CLASSIC!

Why Read a classic?

There are so many reasons why you should read a classic novel, poem or play. The first reason is that it forces you to slow down, concentrate and think deeply. These qualities are really important in today's society, when the world is driven by social media and TV which doesn't encourage you to extend your thinking. In an impatient world, reading a classic is the opposite of shallowness. It requires perseverance and effort. Of course, these books are quality books. Over 180,000 books are published in the UK each year. Most of them are read by vanishingly few people. Trust me, the classics survive the test of time for a reason. Additionally, the more you read, the more you understand. Books often include references to the classics or folklore. For instance, Carol Ann Duffy refers to Little Red Riding Hood in her poem Red Cap. It's a case of the more you read the more you make sense of the writer's message.

Now it has been said that what distinguishes older fiction is that it gives you a window onto another world. Jane Eyre gives us insight into the life of a governess in the 19th Century and the misery of the so-called charitable schools where, all too often, children were hungry and abandoned, often succumbing to diseases such as typhus and typhoid. You learn empathy through encounters with great fiction - in other words reading a classic can make you a better person!

Lastly, if you read a book full of strong ideas, you'll never forget it. Consider how the animals are treated in Animal Farm. Orwell cleverly manipulates our sympathies for the animals by ultimately showing us that power corrupts, and the pigs' betrayal of their fellow farm animals is seen as even more appalling than the neglect of lazy Farmer Jones. And that is before we look at Stalin, Lenin, and the idea of allegory. Your pre-conceptions are challenged by a terrific book. If it really connects you will never, EVER, forget it.





THEME OF THE MONTH: READ A CLASSIC! CONTINUED

Suggested Classic Reading List

Years 7-9

- The Secret Garden – Frances Hodgson Burnett
- Romeo and Juliet- A Graphic novel
- Macbeth- A Graphic novel
- Jane Eyre- Charlotte Bronte (Abridged)
- Great Expectations- Charles Dickens (Abridged)
- Swallows and Amazons- Arthur Ransome
- The Hobbit- J. R. R. Tolkien
- Tom's Midnight Garden – Philippa Pearce
- The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe- C.S. Lewis
- Animal Farm- George Orwell

Years 7-9 - Advanced Reader

- The Hollow- Agatha Christie
- Of Mice and Men- John Steinbeck
- Journey to the Centre of the Earth-Jules Verne
- Jane Eyre- Charlotte Bronte

Years 10 and 11

- The Hound of the Baskervilles- Arthur Conan Doyle
- Jane Eyre -Charlotte Bronte
- Dracula- A Graphic novel -Bram Stoker
- Hamlet- A Graphic novel
- Spies- Michael Frayn

Years 10 and 11 - Advanced Reader

- Frankenstein- Mary Shelley
- The Go-Between- L. P. Hartley
- The World's Wife- Carol Ann Duffy
- Brideshead Revisited- Evelyn Waugh
- Never Let Me Go- Kazuo Ishiguro

FOCUS ON A CLASSIC - WHY JANE EYRE MATTERS

Readers still love Charlotte Bronte's Jane Eyre—and why not? The novel has every quality needed for total story immersion: a sympathetic heroine in plain, mistreated, brilliant, independent Jane; a dashing mysterious romantic lead in Mr. Rochester; a spooky Gothic atmosphere and a chilling mystery; a host of villains in Aunt and John Reed, Mr. Brocklehurst, Blanche Ingram, and more; aides to the heroine, such as Helen, Mrs. Fairfax, and Jane's cousins Mary and Diana; moral temptations, thrills, fires, courageous escapes, sorrow, and suspense. But beyond joyful immersion in a wonderful, well-told story, why would readers return to it again and again? Is it just a pretty romance? Today, Jane's moral dilemmas and particular set of problems seem outmoded; so why does Jane Eyre still matter, in a more serious intellectual sense?

More than just a fun read, Jane Eyre is a subtle, intelligent discussion of the difficulty of choosing among competing value systems. What values and principles should underpin our choices in life? What forces motivate us to choose and adhere to one set of values over another? These are the important questions Jane Eyre asks us to consider. We watch Jane struggle with these questions, and gain insight into how we struggle with values of our own. That is why Jane Eyre still matters.



FOCUS ON A CLASSIC - WHY HAMLET MATTERS

Do you know anyone who has been poisoned lately? Are you currently on a mad quest for revenge? Probably not. Then how does Hamlet connect with your own life? You might be wondering why you should see or read this play, and how it is going to possibly inspire you. As one of Shakespeare's greatest tragedies, Hamlet has connected with readers for ages, on an emotional level. Believe it or not, Hamlet has strong connections to modern society (even if we do not notice them right away).

The key phrase here is "on an emotional level." Emotions are something universal; during the Elizabethan era citizens felt the same happiness, joy, sadness, and grief that we feel today. Thus, it is not bizarre to say that we connect with Hamlet because we connect to the emotions he is going through. Other characters in other plays can give us some emotional insight as well- but Hamlet is the character over the last 400 years that we can probably relate to most. He deals with the death of people he loves, terrible responsibilities such as kingship (ask King Charles and the Prince of Wales) as well as the pain of love denied. We know all this because there are several instances where we can see into his innermost thoughts. For example, in the famous "To be or not to be" soliloquy he says,

Who would fardels bear,
To grunt and sweat under a weary life,
But that the dread of something after death,
The undiscovered country from whose bourn
No traveller returns, puzzles the will
And makes us rather bear those ills we have
Than fly to others that we know not of? (Ham. 3.1.85-90)

Clearly Hamlet is still in the process of grieving over his father, and this drives him to the point of questioning his morals, religious beliefs and re-evaluating his worth. Arthur G. David suggests in the book *Hamlet, and the Eternal Problem of Man* that "Hamlet had an obligation to avenge the murder of his father above and beyond mere personal vengeance" (v).

What does this mean? We all experience grief in some way, and we can relate with how Hamlet handles this grief. He goes through several stages of mourning that include denial and anger. Ultimately, I suppose, we don't all have the duty to take revenge for our father's murder and to restore the rightful king to the throne.

It is important to read carefully and identify these emotions so you can empathize with the characters. It will make you feel more "involved" with the play and you'll gain a greater appreciation for it. Who knows? Now there is so much more to Hamlet than revenge, so I really suggest that you watch it or read it. You may even learn something about yourself through Hamlet.



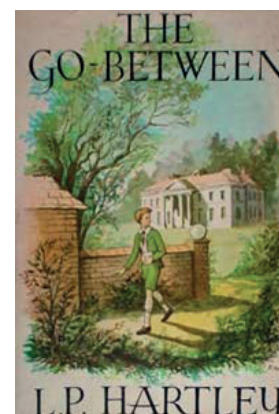
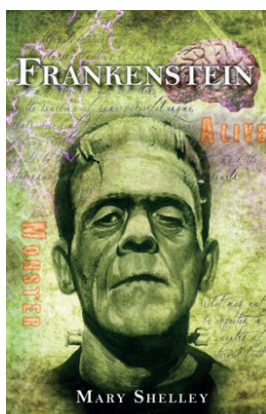
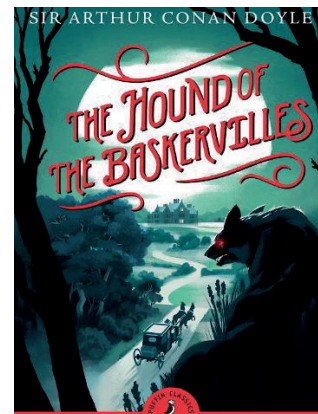
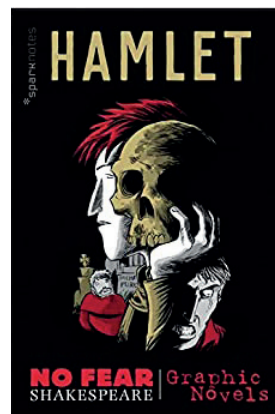
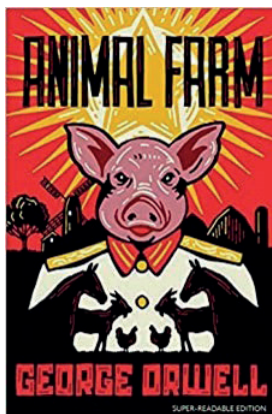
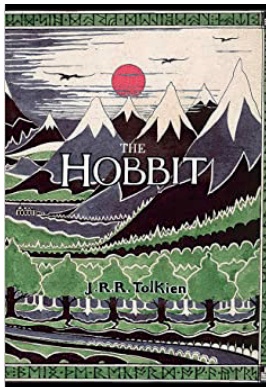
FOCUS ON A CLASSIC - WHY HAMLET MATTERS CONTINUED

I have seen quite a few Hamlets over the years, but I would like to share Andrew Scott's with you; for me he gets as close as you can to the essence of the character: [Andrew Scott in Hamlet | To Be Or Not To Be](#)

Other Hamlet performances:

[Olivier's Hamlet film \(1948\): To Be Or Not To Be soliloquy](#)

[Poetry: Hamlet by William Shakespeare Act 3 Scene 1 || Tom Hiddleston || The Dragon Book of Verse](#)





LIBRARY EVENTS - WORLD BOOK DAY SPECIAL

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**

2 MARCH 2023



Story in a Jar Competition

Come along to the Library from Wednesday 1st – Friday 3rd March and see if you can guess the shredded story in a jar. Write your name and guess on the slip provided and you could be in for a chance to win a fabulous prize!

(All correct answers will be entered in to a draw and a winner picked at random.)

Design a National Book Token Competition

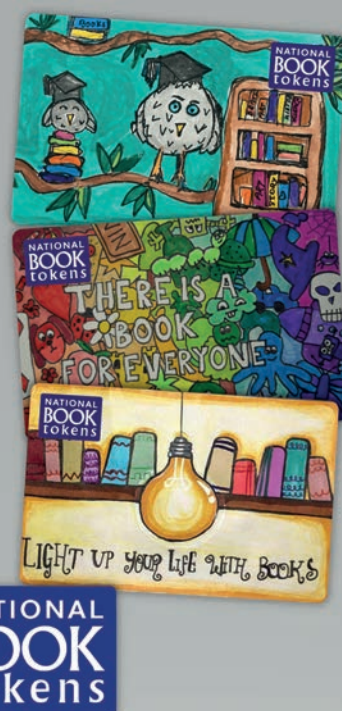
Do you love reading AND art or design? This could be the perfect competition for you.

National Book Tokens are searching for a brand new Gift Card and want YOU to design it!

This year the theme of the competition is 'Choosing to read'. You can interpret this any way you like to celebrate and communicate the joy that comes from choosing to read, as well as choosing which books to read. Remember to create your design with this theme in mind – and think about what might make your gift card appeal to customers if it was on display in a real shop.

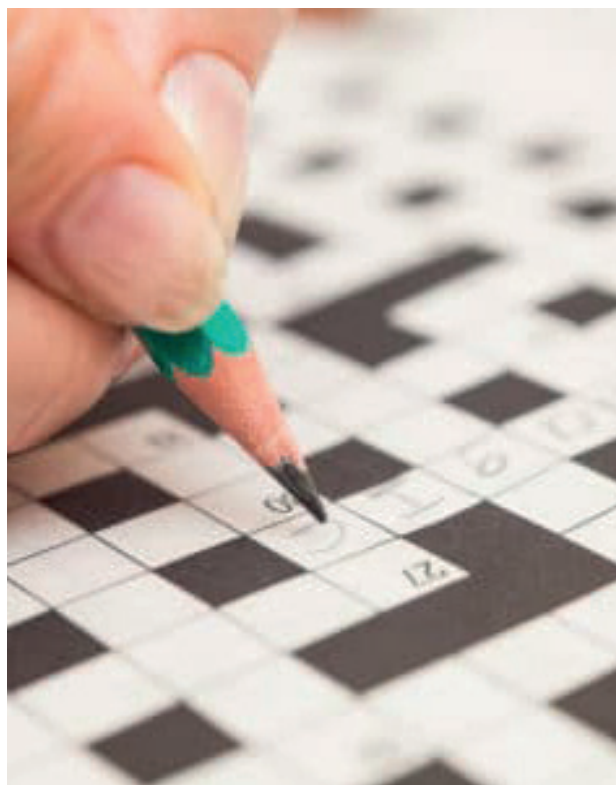
The prizes for this competition are fantastic with up to £100 in National Book Tokens up for grabs for you, plus prizes for your school too!

To enter please come to the library to collect a template to draw your design on and then hand it back in by **MONDAY 27TH MARCH**.





LIBRARY EVENTS - WORLD BOOK DAY SPECIAL CONTINUED



World Book Day Scavenger Hunt

Are you a problem-solver? Great at clues? Love challenge?

Come along to the library on Thursday 2nd March and collect a World Book Day Scavenger Hunt sheet and find the answers to the book-related clues hidden around school. Bring your completed sheet back to the library to be in with the chance of winning a mystery prize!

The World Book Day Scavenger Hunt is open to ALL students.

Crosswords, wordsearches and more

Fancy winding down with a crossword, wordsearch or other activities on World Book Day?

Find a variety of book-related puzzles and alike in the library at break and lunch – help yourself to a sheet and fill in by yourself or with friends just for fun.



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Changing lives through a love of books and reading

World Book Day® is a charity sponsored by National Book Tokens

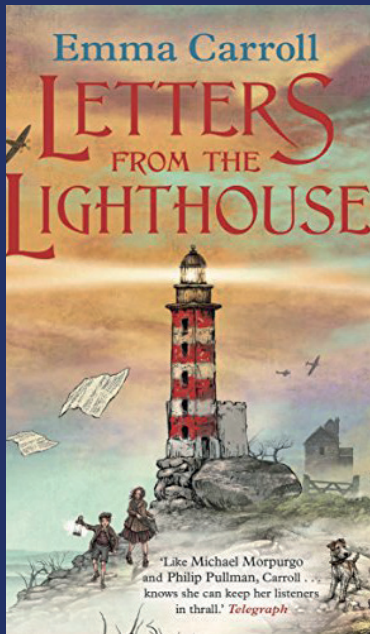
Allen Fatimaharan



MRS IRELANDS RECOMMENDED READS

In honour of International Women's Day coming up on 8th March, my recommended reads this month celebrate some of the fantastic female authors who have written outstanding books. The following are all available in our school library.

Letters from the Lighthouse by Emma Carroll



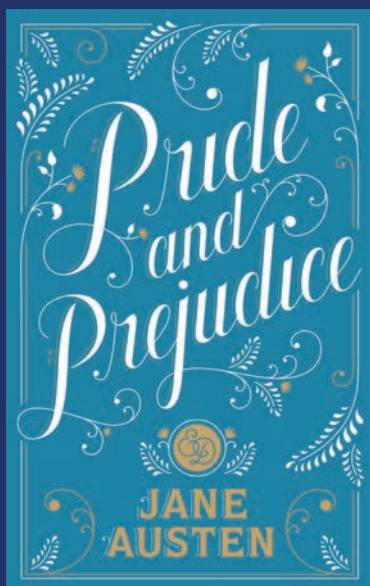
We weren't supposed to be going to the pictures that night. We weren't even meant to be outside, not in a blackout, and definitely not when German bombs had been falling on London all month like pennies from a jar.

February, 1941. After months of bombing raids in London, twelve-year-old Olive Bradshaw and her little brother Cliff are evacuated to the Devon coast. The only person with two spare beds is Mr Ephraim, the local lighthouse keeper. But he's not used to company and he certainly doesn't want any evacuees.

Desperate to be helpful, Olive becomes his post-girl, carrying secret messages (as she likes to think of the letters) to the villagers. But Olive has a secret of her own. Her older sister Sukie went missing in an air raid, and she's desperate to discover what happened to her. Then she finds a strange coded note – a note that changes everything and which seems to link Sukie to Devon, and to something dark and impossibly dangerous.

Emma Carroll's wonderful way of telling evocative stories will entice you from the first page. *Letters from the Lighthouse* is a perfect read for those who love historical fiction and fans of *Goodnight Mister Tom*.

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen



For Mrs Bennet, a mother to five daughters, little else is of consequence than the prospect of a successful and advantageous marriage for each of them. Her daughter Elizabeth, independent and spirited, has other ideas.

When the wealthy and eligible bachelor Mr Bingley moves into the neighbourhood he seems everything one could want in a husband; engaging friendly and obliging he forms a quick attachment with Elizabeth's beloved sister Jane. His friend and companion Fitzwilliam Darcy makes a less favourable first impression on Elizabeth, she thinks him arrogant and conceited whilst he seems indifferent to her quick wit and lively mind.

When she later discovers that Darcy has involved himself in the troubled relationship between Bingley and Jane, their relationship seems destined to be one of animosity but both are about to learn the folly of judging from first impressions.

In a celebration of female authors I can't go without recommending my favourite novel. Jane Austen is the queen of romantic fiction and writes some of the strongest female protagonists possible.



MRS IRELANDS RECOMMENDED READS

Frozen Charlotte by Alex Bell



Dunvegan School for Girls has been closed for many years. Converted into a family home, the teachers and students are long gone. But they left something behind...

Sophie arrives at the old schoolhouse to spend the summer with her cousins. Brooding Cameron with his scarred hand, strange Lillias with a fear of bones and Piper, who seems just a bit too good to be true. And then there's her other cousin. The girl with a room full of antique dolls. The girl that shouldn't be there. The girl that died.

Frozen Charlotte is a fast-paced, creepy novel that will keep you riveted page after page. The perfect book for readers who love a horror story as well as complex characters and plot details that get your brain ticking!

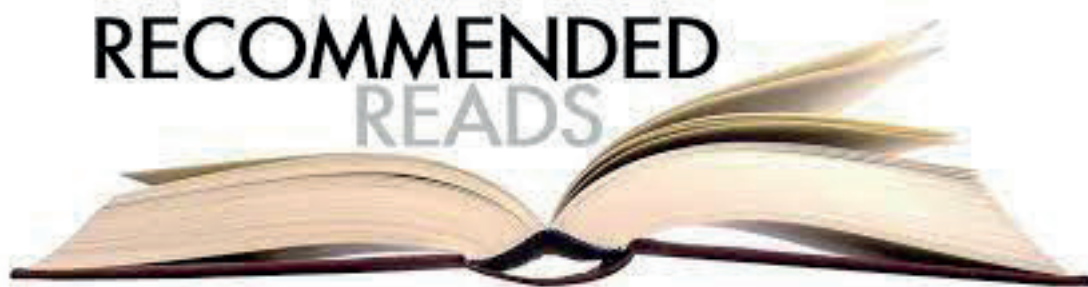
Clockwork Angel (The Infernal Devices Series) by Cassandra Clare (T+)



Love is the most dangerous magic of all... First in the bestselling prequel series to The Mortal Instruments, set in Victorian London. Something terrifying is waiting for Tessa Gray in London's Downworld, where vampires, warlocks and other supernatural folk stalk the gaslit streets. Tessa seeks refuge with the Shadowhunters, a band of warriors dedicated to ridding the world of demons. Tessa finds herself fascinated by - and torn between - two best friends...

Cassandra Clare is a master of her craft and Clockwork Angel is every bit as good as her previous works. A brilliant novel for older students who enjoy a challenging read. Despite being set in Victorian London, these need not put off those who dislike historical fiction. The magic and danger of the storyline will keep you invested until the end.

RECOMMENDED
READS





MRS SMALLWOOD'S POEM OF THE MONTH

The Way Through the Woods by Rudyard Kipling

They shut the road through the woods
Seventy years ago.
Weather and rain have undone it again,
And now you would never know
There was once a road through the woods
Before they planted the trees.
It is underneath the coppice and heath,
And the thin anemones.
Only the keeper sees
That, where the ring-dove broods,
And the badgers roll at ease,
There was once a road through the woods.

Yet, if you enter the woods
Of a summer evening late,
When the night-air cools on the trout-ringed pools
Where the otter whistles his mate,
(They fear not men in the woods,
Because they see so few.)
You will hear the beat of a horse's feet,
And the swish of a skirt in the dew,
Steadily cantering through
The misty solitudes,
As though they perfectly knew
The old lost road through the woods.
But there is no road through the woods.



MONTHLY CHALLENGE

Write A Book Review

The most important reviews of the books we have in the library come from YOU – the people that read them! We are looking for more reviews to go on our 'Book Reviews' board in the library.

Your challenge this month is to write a review for a book that you recommend from our school library. This can be any book we have, no matter how long ago you read it. Email a review of no more than 200 words to library@beaufort.hants.sch.uk and if we choose to feature yours on our review board you will receive a little thank you gift!

Unsure where to start – check out this great guide to writing a book review by BookTrust: [how-to-write-a-book-review](#)