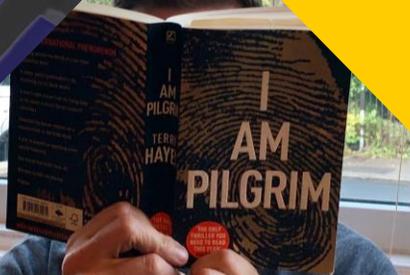




IAN RAMSEY CE ACADEMY

Together to learn, to grow, to serve

Reading Newsletter



Welcome

Welcome to our November 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
- Bedrock 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,

Mrs Chapman-Jones



N O V E M B E R

NOVEMBER

1. Jane Austen's father writes to bookseller Thomas Cadell, asking if he'd be interested in reading the manuscript of his daughter's novel, *First Impressions* (later to be retitled *Pride and Prejudice*). Cadell declines, 1797
2. D.H. Lawrence is declared not guilty in the obscenity trial over *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, 1960
3. "Black Bart the poet" gets away with his last stagecoach robbery, 1883
4. Sigmund Freud's *The Interpretation of Dreams* is published, 1899
5. Lionel Trilling dies, 1975
6. Louis Racine is born, 1692
7. Albert Camus is born, 1913
8. Bram Stoker is born, 1847
9. Dylan Thomas dies, 1953
10. *Lady Chatterley's Lover* sells 200,000 copies in one day, the first it's been available since being banned in 1928, 1960
11. James Bond is born, 1920/21
12. Roland Barthes is born, 1915
13. Robert Louis Stevenson is born, 1850
14. Astrid Lindgren is born, 1907
15. J.G. Ballard is born, 1930
16. Fyodor Dostoevsky is sentenced to death for antigovernment activities, 1849
17. American expat Sylvia Beach opens the Shakespeare and Company bookstore in Paris, 1919
18. *Calvin and Hobbes* is first published, 1985
19. First Kindle e-reader released, 2007
20. An eighty-ton sperm whale rams and sinks the *Essex* and inspires Melville to write *Moby-Dick*, 1820
21. The first installment of the first American erotic novel *Fanny Hill* is published, 1748
22. The eponymous date of Stephen King's *11/22/63*, 1963
23. Roald Dahl dies, 1990
24. Charles Darwin publishes *The Origin of Species*, 1859
25. Yukio Mishima commits seppuku, 1970
26. Charles Dodgson sends the handwritten manuscript of *Alice's Adventures Underground* to Alice Liddell, 1862
27. James Agee is born, 1909
28. William Shakespeare marries Anne Hathaway, 1582
29. Madeleine L'Engle is born, 1918
30. Mark Twain is born, 1835

By Emily Temple for Flavorwire

this
MONTH
in history

Author spotlight

This month's author: Annie Garthwaite

Annie Garthwaite grew up in a working class community in the north-east of England.

A schoolgirl interest in medieval history became a lifelong obsession with Cecily Neville, so, at age fifty-five, she enrolled on the Warwick Writing MA programme. Her extraordinary debut novel *Cecily* is the result. During a thirty-year international business career she frequently found herself the only woman at the table, where she gained valuable insights into how a woman like Cecily might have operated.

Today she lives with her partner – and far too many animals – on the side of a green Shropshire hill close to the Yorkist stronghold of Ludlow.

In Annie's own words:

What can I say? I love 15th century history. No apologies, no excuses. The 100 Years War, the Wars of the Roses. All of that.

It's not that I'm a big fan of blood and battles. Personally I can do without that sort of thing. No – it's the women who interest me. How they negotiated their way in the world. How they managed – some of them at least, probably more of them than you'd think – to wield power and influence at a time when men seemed to hold most of the cards. And how others, simply, did not.

For me, the stand out character of the 15th century has always been Cecily Neville. She experienced power in both directions; wielding it and having it wielded against her. She survived eighty years of tumultuous history, mothered kings, created a dynasty and brought her family through civil war. She met victory and defeat in equal measure and, in face of all, lived on. Last woman standing, you might say.



Author to academy



Dear Ian Ramsay C of E Academy,

I'm so pleased to be writing to you. I went to school not far from you – in Hartlepool in fact. It was there that I first had the idea that I'd like to write a novel. And I even knew, way back then, what that novel would be about. It would be about Cecily, the mother of Richard III and Edward IV, matriarch of the House of York during the long ago Wars of the Roses.

You can blame my history teacher for the whole thing, if you like. He was very, very enthusiastic! His name was Keith Hill and he made history feel like real life – as if those far away events had all happened yesterday to people who are not that different to you or I. I was completely captivated. He spotted I was interested (or, at least, not asleep!) and started to bring in extra books for me to read. 'You might look at this,' he'd say, as another text book or novel came flying across the desk. 'Or, try this one.'

I have to admit, it was the novels that appealed most. As I read them my head was alight with all the excitement of the wars – vicious rivalries, breath-taking treacheries, unlikely triumphs, fearful fates. And the towering characters! Edward IV, the golden boy who hacked his way to the throne. Earl Warwick, king-maker, showman, traitor. Hapless Henry Six, the mad king. And, let me tell you, the women were no less extraordinary than the men. Marguerite of Anjou, who put on armour and rode at the head of an army. Elizabeth Woodville, the impoverished widow who denied the king her body till he married her to get it. Margaret Beaufort, who conspired lifelong to make her son England's first Tudor king. Don't ever let anyone tell you that medieval women didn't make their mark on history!

Richard III was the standout figure for me in the early days. I was fascinated by the mystery. Did he murder the Princes in the Tower? Was he a hunchback?. To be honest though, I quickly became more interested in his mother. Like many women in history, she'd been somewhat overlooked. In part, I blame Shakespeare for that. You might say he 'did for Cecily', no less than he did for her son, Richard III. She doesn't appear much in his history plays but, when she does, she hasn't much to say and certainly doesn't have any power. She just complains a lot about her son's bad behaviour and is, I'm afraid, rather dull. Sadly, I think that characterisation stuck!



Author to academy

As I looked into her life, however, I realised the truth couldn't be more different. Cecily lived through eighty years of tumultuous history. She mothered kings, created a dynasty, brought her family through civil war. She met with victory and defeat and, in face of everything, fought on. And, believe, me, when she spoke, the men absolutely sat up and took notice. Powerless she was not! Her son Edward, when king, even made her his regent. So, I determined to write Cecily's story. I wanted to show that women in history could be just as powerful, dynamic and exciting as the men.

It took a long time. Before I could give my time to writing novels, I had to make a living, pursue a career. But I promised myself that, when that was done, I'd write Cecily's story. And now, at last, more than forty years later, the book is written, the story told, one more woman's life reclaimed from dusty pages of mistaken history.

I was lucky, all those years ago in Hartlepool, to have such an inspiring teacher. I hope you've got one or two just like him in your school. Keith Hill made me think. He encouraged me to question things. He instilled in me a love of history – and a passion for reading – that has given me more pleasure in life than anything else I can think of. I'll always be grateful.

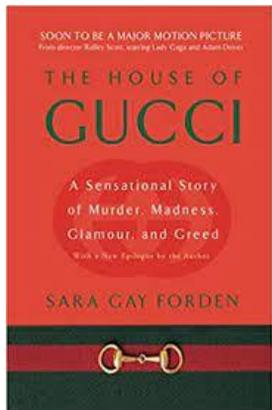
I hope you'll all carry on reading – finding out about new things, discovering stories and characters that make you think and feel differently. Quite honestly, I can think of nothing better!

With every good wish,

Annie



From page to screen

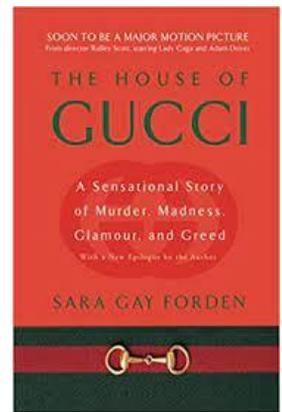


This month's From Page to Screen is a real life thriller. 'House of Gucci' is a crime film directed by Ridley Scott and is based on the 2001 book 'The House of Gucci: A Sensational Story of Murder, Madness, Glamour and Greed' by Sarah Gay Forden.

The book follows the story of the murder of Maurizio Gucci who was slain by an unknown gunman as he approached his office in 1995. In 1998, his ex-wife, Patrizia Reggiani (nicknamed 'The Black Widow' by the press) was sentenced to 29 years in prison for arranging his murder. The Gucci story is one of glitz, glamour, intrigue, the rise, near fall and subsequent resurgence of a fashion dynasty.



The film is set in 1995 and depicts the events and aftermath of the murder of Maurizio Gucci, Italian businessman and head of the fashion house Gucci, by his ex-wife Patrizia Reggiani. Starring Lady GaGa as Patrizia and Adam Driver as Maurizio Gucci.



Reading Facts

If children say they don't like reading it is because they haven't found the right book yet! Reading magazines, autobiographies, fact files, blogs, memes all count.

If your child is struggling to read, then why not direct them to Mrs Bailey, Ian Ramsey CE Academy's very own Librarian, keeper of books and fount of all knowledge in book related matters? We can guarantee that she will find a book your child will love. And if you contact her via email, it will all be socially distanced, meaning your child can find a book they enjoy at no risk to themselves!

READING FOR
6 MINUTES A DAY
REDUCES STRESS
BY 68%.



Children who read
1,000,000 words
a year are in the
top 2% of reading
achievement.



When children have a
home library, as little as
20 books of their own,
they achieve **3 more years**
of schooling than children
who don't have any
books at home.



Read **20 minutes** a
day and you'll read
1,800,000 words
per year.



TOP 5 REASONS TO READ DAILY



Fact 1:
Reading can make you
a better conversationalist.

Fact 2:
Neighbors will never complain
you are reading too loud.

Fact 3:
Knowledge by osmosis has not yet
been perfected, so you'd better read.

Fact 4:
Books have stopped bullets.
Reading could save your life.

Fact 5:
Dinosaurs did not read.
Look what happened to them.

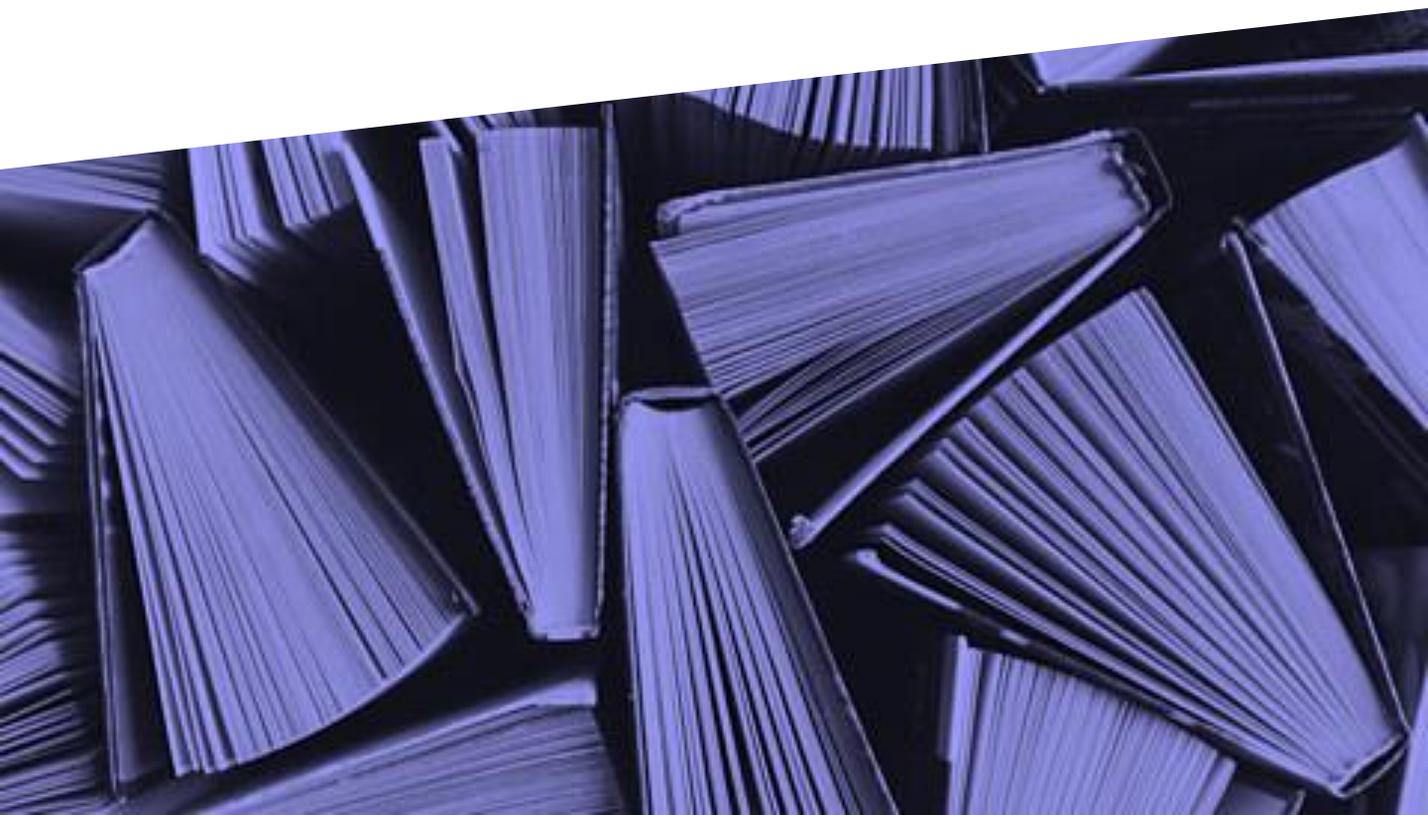


Reading Challenge Grid

Look at the challenges below. Can you complete a row of three, in any direction? Can you complete all four corners? Can you complete all boxes on the grid?

Hand in your completed tasks, with book titles and a short review, to Mrs. Poppleton (in person or via email) to be entered into the termly prize draw.

Read a book about a challenge or a challenging situation.	Read at least one book from your year group reading challenge.	Read a book about a culture that is different to your own.
Read a book set more than 100 years ago.	Read a book based on science (fiction or non-fiction).	Read a book that has been made into a film.
Read a book by an author that is new to you.	Watch a play or listen to an audiobook.	Read a book set in Winter or at Christmas time.

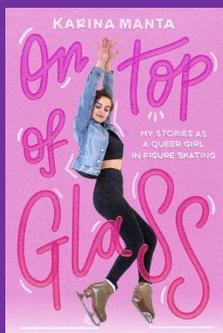


What's new?

Non-fiction

'On Top of Glass' by Karina Manta

Karina Manta has had a busy few years: Not only did she capture the hearts of many with her fan-favourite performance at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships, she also became the first female figure skater on Team USA to come out as queer. Her Modern Love essay 'I Can't Hate My Body If I Love Hers' was published in the New York Times and then she joined the Circus- Cirque du Soleil's on-ice show, AXEL. This isn't just a story about her queerness. It's also a story about her struggle with body image in a sport that prizes femininity. It's a story about panic attacks, and first crushes and all the crushes that followed; it's about growing up, feeling different and realizing that everyone else is different too.



Fiction

'Briar Girls' by Rebecca Kim Wells

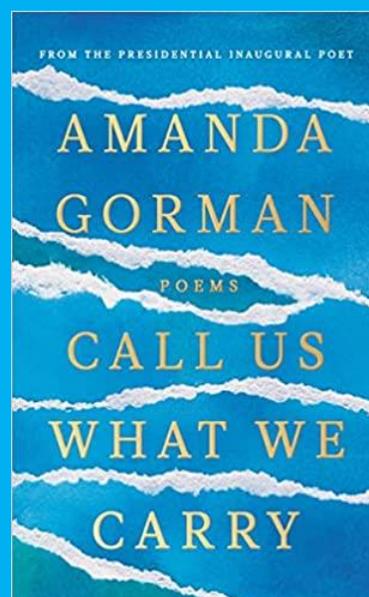
Lena has a secret: the touch of her skin can kill. Cursed by a witch before she was born, Lena has always lived in fear and isolation. But after a devastating mistake, she and her father are forced to flee to a village near the Silence, a mysterious forest with a reputation for luring people into the trees, never to be seen again...



Poetry

'Call Us What We Carry' by Amanda Gorman

Including 'The Hill We Climb,' the stirring poem read at the inauguration of the 46th President of the United States, Joe Biden, this luminous poetry collection by Amanda Gorman captures a shipwrecked moment in time and transforms it into a lyric of hope and healing. In *Call Us What We Carry*, Gorman explores history, language, identity, and erasure through an imaginative and intimate collage. Harnessing the collective grief of a global pandemic, these seventy poems shine a light on a moment of reckoning and reveal that Gorman has become our messenger from the past, our voice for the future.



Staff Recommendations



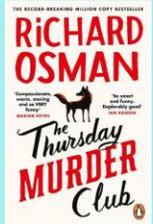
Mrs Chapman-Jones recommends:
'Orphan Monster Spy' by Matt Killeen

A Jewish orphan must infiltrate an elite Nazi boarding school after her mother is shot at a checkpoint and she is taken in by a spy on a mission. A fantastic read with many twists that I didn't see coming.



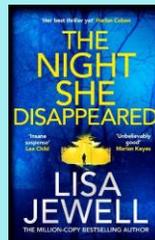
Mr. Patrick recommends:
'The Thursday Murder Club' by Richard Osman

This was recommended to me by a friend who had heard good reports about it. I wasn't disappointed. A great summer read that was funny and intriguing and great for a bit of escapism.



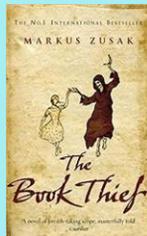
Mrs Cook recommends:
'The Night She Disappeared' by Lisa Jewell

This is an excellent thriller, full of mystery and drama. The plot centres around the disappearance of teenage mother Tallulah, on a night out in 2017. In 2018, a strange note restarts the cold case.



Mr. Walters recommends:
'The Book Thief' by Markus Zusak

Set in Germany, in 1939-1943, this tells the story of Liesel, narrated by Death. A complex narrative but one that is well worth a read.



Miss Murray recommends:
'Inheritance games' by Jennifer Lynn Barnes

This arrived in a box of books I subscribe to. It's a Cinderella story with a twist and I was engrossed from the start.



Local Libraries

Middlesbrough Central Library

Central Library is located in the centre of Middlesbrough, on Centre Square, close to Middlesbrough Town Hall.

The library was opened in 1912 following a generous donation by Dr. Andrew Carnegie and an offer of land owned by Sir Hugh Bell and Alderman Hinton JP. The magnificent building is Grade II listed and retains many original features including the fixtures in the Reference Library.

Central Library is the centrepiece of Middlesbrough's wider library offer and plays host to numerous cultural events throughout the year.

The library provides:

- access to library services
- access to reference services including local and family history
- information on local public services
- free access to the internet and Wi-Fi
- space for community meetings and activities
- Early Years and youth services, activities and support
- photocopying, printing and fax facilities
- Memory Lane Dementia Cafe: held on the third Wednesday of each month, 1pm to 3pm (please contact the library for more information and the date of the next cafe)



Have you been to..?

The Lit and Phil

The Lit & Phil Library is Newcastle's exquisite secret library, open to all and free to explore and browse. Established in 1825 on Westgate Road, just yards from Central Station, we became a hub of learning and enlightenment long before the city's universities existed and today continue to inspire minds, stimulate imaginations and confer a wealth of knowledge to young and old alike....

It houses a collection of more than 170,000 books (from 16th century tomes to modern fiction), the largest music collection in the North of England and a dazzling events programme packed with jazz, folk and classical music, celebrity author evenings, theatre and storytelling, poetry reading and classes covering everything from bookbinding to Latin, fine art to creative writing.

Lit and Phil is a sanctuary for book lovers, an oasis for musicians and a realm of magic and mystery for children and the young-at-heart.

Come in and be amazed....



First liners



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

1. It was a pleasure to burn.

2. All happy families are alike; each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.

3. In my younger and more vulnerable years my father gave me some advice that I've been turning over in my mind ever since.

4. I was born twice: first, as a baby girl, on a remarkably smogless Detroit day in January of 1960; and then again, as a teenage boy, in an emergency room in Petoskey, Michigan, in August of 1974.

5. This is my favourite book in all the world, though I have never read it,

6. All children, except one, grow up.

7. All this happened, more or less.

8. Gerald was a tall giraffe whose neck was long and thin.

9. "Where's Papa going with that ax?" said Fern to her mother as they were setting the table for breakfast.



EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT!!!

The Bishop of Durham Reading Award

An exciting new award is heading to Ian Ramsey CE Academy!

We are very excited to announce that we are launching a new award at Ian Ramsey CE Academy. The award will be open to all pupils and is centered around all things reading.

There are different levels that pupils can achieve, and for each level, there are different reading tasks to complete and get signed off.

We are thrilled that the award has been endorsed by the Bishop of Durham, who will be attending the academy for a presentation ceremony for the first cohort of pupils to achieve a level of the award.

More details will be given in the coming weeks, so watch this space.

We look forward to seeing many pupils complete the award!



A Good REad

Mrs Craven has begun a new book club for pupils. Unfortunately, numbers are limited, but she would like to recommend an RE linked book to all parents and pupils each month, supporting our whole school Christian Ethos. This month's recommendation is:

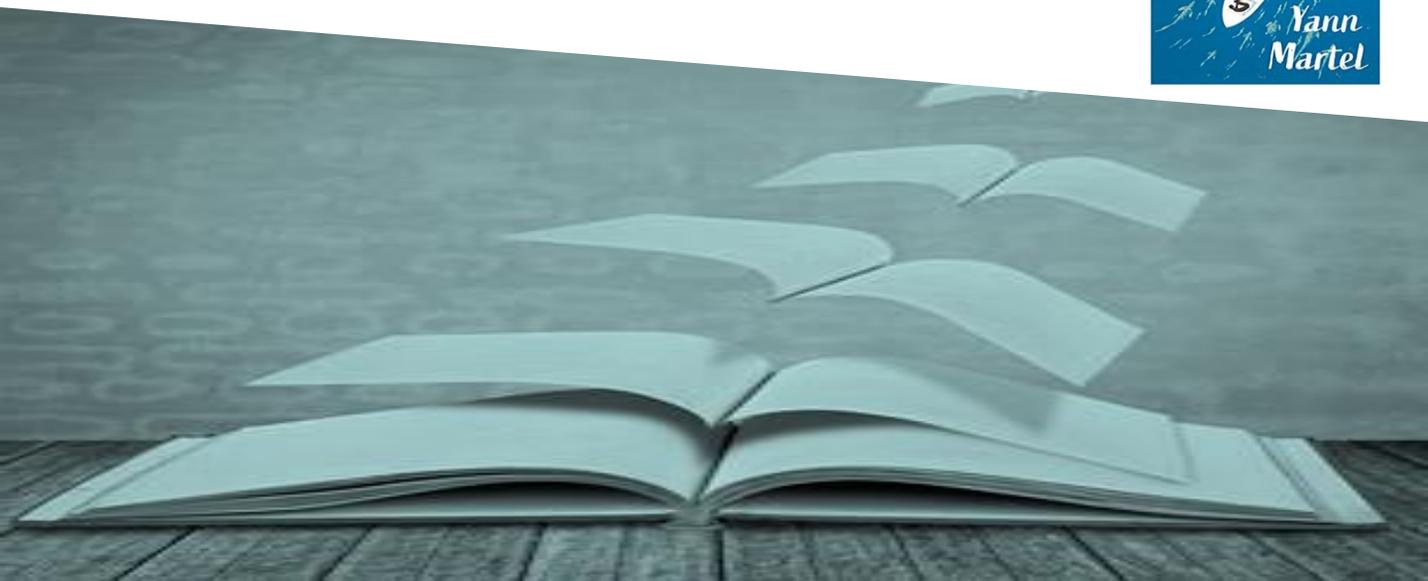
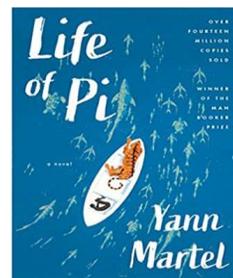
The Life of Pi: by Yann Martel

The Life of Pi, a Man Booker Prize winning book, tells the story of Pi, a teenage boy from India, who finds himself trapped in a lifeboat in the Pacific Ocean with a tiger. At the start of the book, we learn about Pi's childhood in Pondicherry in India. His father owns the city zoo, and the family home is in the zoo. When they aren't at school, Pi and his brother help their father at the zoo and he learns a lot about animals. Pi is very interested in religion. His family are Hindu, but he is curious about Christianity and Islam too and decides to believe in all three religions.

When Pi is 16, his parents decide to close the zoo and move to Canada. They sell some of the animals to zoos in North America and the family travel by ship to Canada taking the animals with them. On the way, there is a terrible storm and the ship sinks. Sadly, Pi's family and the sailors all die in the storm, but Pi lives and finds himself in a lifeboat with a hyena, zebra, orangutan and an enormous tiger. At first, Pi is scared of the animals and jumps into the ocean. Then he remembers there are sharks in the water and decides to climb back into the lifeboat. One by one, the animals in the lifeboat kill and eat each other, until only Pi and the tiger are left alive.

Pi and the tiger spend 227 days in the lifeboat. They live through terrible storms and the burning heat of the Pacific sun. They are often hungry and ill. Sometimes, Pi finds comfort in his three religions, but sometimes he feels sad and lonely. Finally, they arrive at the coast of Mexico and their journey together comes to an end with an unexpected twist to the tale. As well as examining key aspects of Hinduism, Christianity and Islam, this book explores the themes of spirituality and religion, self-perception, the definition of family, and the nature of animals.

A brilliant read for anyone who enjoys puzzling on life's big question!

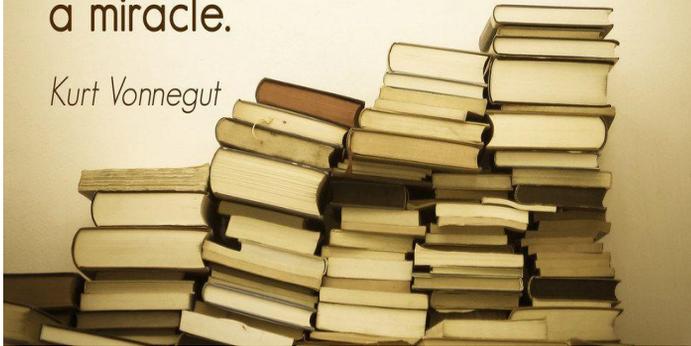


Final Notes

Reading is so important to our Academy. The key aim of our reading drive is to encourage Reading for Pleasure. I leave you with the words of American author Kurt Vonnegut.

"By reading the writings of the most interesting minds in history, we meditate with our own minds and theirs as well. This to me is a miracle."

Kurt Vonnegut



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 November's newsletter and look forward to sending you December's edition.

*Answers to First Lines:

1. 'Fahrenheit 451' by Ray Bradbury
2. 'Anna Karenina' by Leo Tolstoy
3. 'The great Gatsby' F.Scott-Fitzgerald
4. 'Middlesex' by Jeffrey Eugenides
5. 'The Princess Bride' by William Goldman
6. 'Peter Pan' by J.M.Barrie
7. 'Slaughterhouse five' by Kurt Vonnegut
8. 'Giraffes can't dance' by Giles Andreae
9. 'Charlotte's Web' by E.B.White

