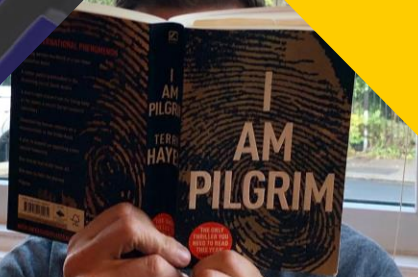




IAN RAMSEY CE ACADEMY

Together to learn, to grow, to serve

Reading Newsletter



this MONTH in history

MARCH

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1914 Ralph Ellison is born.	1931 Tom Wolfe is born.	1878 Edward Thomas is born.	1940 David Plante is born.	1948 Leslie Marmon Silko is born.	1888 Louisa May Alcott dies.	1964 Bret Easton Ellis is born.
8 Sherwood Anderson dies.	9 1994 Charles Bukowski dies.	10 1940 David Rabe is born.	11 1952 Douglas Adams is born.	12 1922 Jean-Louis Lebris de ("Jack") Kerouac is born.	13 1914 W. O. Mitchell is born.	14 1989 Edward Abbey dies.
15 William Wells Brown is born.	16 1952 Alice Hoffman is born.	17 1933 Penelope Lively is born.	18 1893 Wilfred Owen is born.	19 1916 Irving Wallace is born.	20 1904 B. F. Skinner is born.	21 1905 Phyllis McGinley is born.
22 Stephen Sondheim is born.	23 1968 Edwin O'Connor dies.	24 1882 Henry Wadsworth Longfellow dies.	25 1925 Flannery O'Connor is born.	26 1892 Walt Whitman dies.	27 1923 Louis Simpson is born.	28 1941 Virginia Woolf dies.
29 1913 R. S. Thomas is born.	30 1844 Paul Verlaine is born.	31 1855 Charlotte Brontë dies.				

Welcome

Welcome to our March 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?

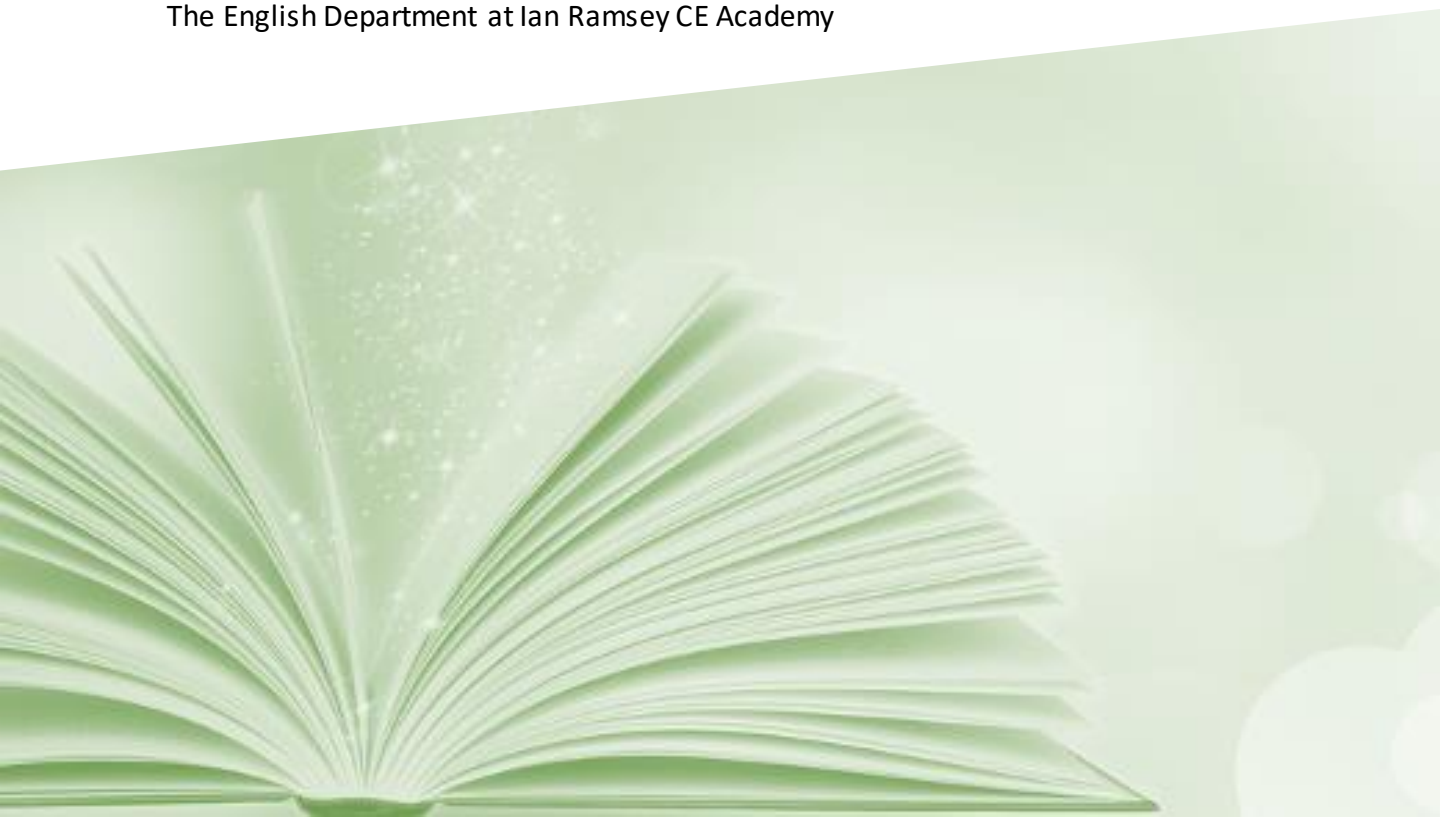
This newsletter is a chance to find out about:

- fiction
- non-fiction
- poetry
- authors and their work
- 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,

The English Department at Ian Ramsey CE Academy



Author spotlight

This month's author: Sinead O'Hart



Sinead O'Hart is a talented Irish author celebrated for her captivating storytelling and imaginative worlds. Born and raised in a small town in County Donegal, Ireland, O'Hart developed a deep love for literature from a young age, devouring books and crafting her own stories inspired by the rich landscapes and folklore of her homeland.

After completing her education, O'Hart embarked on a career in writing, drawing inspiration from her diverse interests in history, science, and mythology. Her debut novel, "The Eye of the North," introduced readers to a thrilling adventure filled with mystery, magic, and unforgettable characters. Set in a world where science and myth collide, the book received critical acclaim and garnered O'Hart a devoted following.

Continuing to enchant readers with her unique blend of fantasy and adventure, O'Hart has since released several more novels, each showcasing her remarkable talent for world-building and storytelling. Her works have been praised for their vivid imagery, intricate plots, and compelling themes, earning her a reputation as one of Ireland's most exciting new voices in children's literature.



Author to academy

THE SILVER ROAD

Dear Storyfinders,

My name's Sinéad O'Hart, and I'm the author of five books (so far!) They're *The Eye of the North*, *The Star-Spun Web*, *Skyborn*, *The Time Tider*, and *The Silver Road*. My books exist because I've always loved to read, and think, and dream, and imagine, and wonder - and I'm a Storyfinder, just like you!

In case you're wondering: Storyfinders (like us) are people who are 'in the know' about where ideas come from (but just in case you're a bit rusty, here's a reminder!)

First, they follow my **ABC** - **Always Be Curious**. This means they **use all their senses to soak up the world around them** - so, whatever senses you've got available, get them working to learn as much as you can about everything. See and hear and feel and (if it's safe! Check with your grown-ups first) touch and taste and smell new things, and put all your findings into your Creativity Cauldron, which lives inside your brain. Ask yourself questions about the things that you've discovered - like, 'why is that house that colour?' or 'why is that lady wearing such a funny hat?' or 'what sort of music does that dog like to listen to?' or 'why does that flower look so pretty but smell so bad?' - and then find out (or, even better, invent) the answers! Stick those in your Creativity Cauldron, too. Imagine: the things you're putting into your Creativity Cauldron are like ingredients, and your thoughts and imaginings and dreams are like seasoning, and together, they happily bubble away until they're ready to be served!

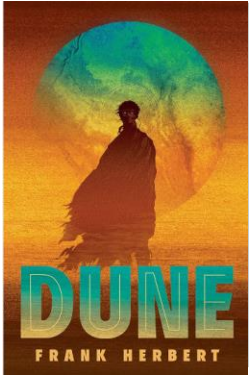
Next, Storyfinders **never leave home without their notebook and pen or pencil**, because ideas are tricky and quick, and they need to be stuck to the page super-fast before they vanish. If you get a good name for a character: write it down! If you're inspired as to what they look like: draw it! If you think of a funny joke that you could put in the mouth of your baddie: get it on paper, fast! Sometimes, really good story-seeds pop into your head at the most inconvenient times, and it's mega-annoying to forget them, so write them down straight away.

And then, **dream!** Daydreaming, imagining, doodling, bringing your ideas for a walk are all vital Storyfinding skills. And you'll see: once you really look - I mean, really look - at the wonders all around you, you'll start to notice the stories that are everywhere, just waiting to be found. Is that a crane, or a dragon's neck? Are those stones on the ground, or lions' teeth? And is that funny dog just a funny dog, or an alien lifeform in disguise...? You decide!

Happy Storyfinding!



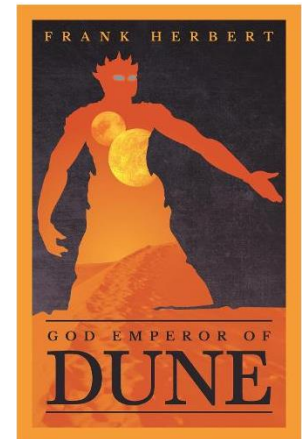
From page to screen

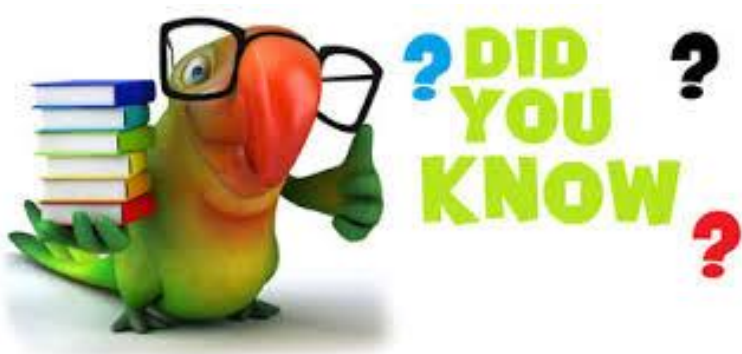


"Dune: Part Two" continues the epic saga of Frank Herbert's iconic science fiction masterpiece, delving deeper into the complex political intrigue and interstellar conflicts of the desert planet Arrakis.



With its richly imagined world and thought-provoking themes, "Dune: Part Two" captivates readers with its blend of adventure, philosophy, and intrigue, cementing its status as a timeless classic of science fiction literature.





Reading stimulates various parts of the brain, including those responsible for language processing, memory, and imagination. It's like a workout for your brain, helping to improve cognitive function and even potentially staving off cognitive decline as you age.

Engaging with fictional characters and their experiences can enhance empathy and social perception. Studies have shown that readers of literary fiction, which often delves into complex characters and situations, tend to have higher levels of empathy compared to non-readers.

Research suggests that avid readers may enjoy longer lifespans compared to those who read less frequently. Whether it's due to the cognitive benefits, stress reduction, or a combination of factors, the habit of reading appears to be linked to overall health and well-being.

Escaping into a good book can be an effective stress-reliever. Reading for just a few minutes can lower heart rate and reduce muscle tension, providing a welcome mental break from the pressures of everyday life.



2024 Reading Challenge

No. 2024

Any Bookworm

IS ENTITLED TO READ BOOKS FROM
The 52 Book Club
2024 Reading Challenge

1. Locked-room mystery	27. By a neurodivergent author
2. Bibliosmia: A smelly book	28. A yellow spine
3. More than 40 chapters	29. Published in a Year of the Dragon
4. Lowercase letters on the spine	30. Picked without reading the blurb
5. Magical Realism	31. Includes a personal phobia
6. Women in STEM	32. Time frame spans a week or less
7. At least four different POV	33. An abrupt ending
8. Features the ocean	34. Set in a landlocked country
9. A character-driven novel	35. Title matches lyrics from a song
10. Told in non-chronological order	36. Has futuristic technology
11. Title starting with the letter "K"	37. Palindrome on the cover
12. Title starting with the letter "L"	38. Published by Hachette
13. An academic thriller	39. Non-fiction recommended by a friend
14. A grieving character	40. Set during a holiday you don't celebrate
15. Part of a duology	41. A sticker on the cover
16. An omniscient narrator	42. Author debut in second half of 2024
17. Nominated for The Booker Prize	43. About finding identity
18. An apostrophe in the title	44. Includes a wedding
19. A buddy read	45. Chapter headings have dates
20. A revenge story	46. Featuring Indigenous culture
21. Written by a ghostwriter	47. Self-insert by an author
22. A plot similar to another book	48. The word "secret" in the title
23. The <i>other</i> book with the similar plot	49. Set in a city starting with the letter "M"
24. A cover without people on it	50. A musical instrument on the cover
25. An author "everyone" has read except you	51. Related to the word "Wild"
26. Hybrid genre	52. Published in 2024

*Read all
the books!*

www.the52book.club

March Reading Challenge

My Reading Challenge March Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01 A book about Spring	02 A book about friends	03 A story about an animal	04 Made into a movie	05 A mystery story	06 A bible story	07 A book recommended by a friend
08 About your favourite celebrity	09 About your favourite hobby	10 A gifted book	11 A new release	12 A non-fiction book	13 About a famous artist	14 A true story
15 About mental wellbeing	16 About your favourite sport	17 A book set in the future	18 A local story	19 A comic strip	20 A book under 500 pages	21 A book under 200 pages
22 A book recommended by a family member	23 Set in fictional town	24 Your favourite childhood story	25 Re-read your favorite	26 A book by your favourite author	27 A book borrowed from a library	28 About healthy eating
29 Poems	30 A story about Easter	31 Recommended by your teacher				



• **Most Favorite List:**

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• **Mediocre List:**

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• **Less Favorite List:**

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Notes:

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Louie Stowell

In February, we took a group Y7 pupils to Yarm School to meet the author of the 'Loki Series' Louie Stowell. Louie talked a little about her childhood and her love of reading and writing stories. With help from members of the audience including our own Max, Louie delighted everyone with a drama of her World Book Day title 'Loki Tales of a Bad God', this was very entertaining. Louie draws all the illustrations in her books, Louie then drew Loki, a school sign and Loki shape shifting as dinosaur all of which were enhanced with great ideas from the audience.

Louie answered questions from the audience, we learned it takes Louie a year to write a book, Louie preferred the Norse Gods for her stories as opposed to the Greek Gods because the Greek Gods are too doom and gloom and Louie started writing stories from the age of eight. Before returning to school our group of Year 7 pupils received their free copy of 'Loki A Bad God Guide to Being Good' and had their photograph taken with Louie.



What's new?

Non-fiction

Things No One Taught Us About Love by Vex King

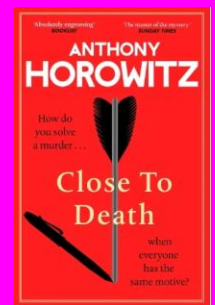
This extraordinary book is for anyone looking to harness the power of the universe, and their own self-understanding, to manifest stronger, deeper relationships. Bestselling author of *Good Vibes*, *Good Life*, Vex King is back with a life-changing guide to strengthening your relationships by learning to love yourself, and understanding the true nature of love.



Fiction

Birnam Wood by Eleanor Catton

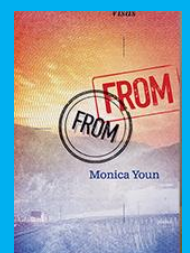
When Charles Kenworthy is found dead on his porch, the bolt of a crossbow through his chest, Daniel Hawthorne is called in. But how do you solve a murder when everyone has the same motive?



Poetry

From From by Monica Youn

Themes of authenticity and deracination are deconstructed in this equally comedic and tragic new collection from Monica Youn. *From From* uses the question “Where are you *from from*?” to interrogate stereotypes, methods of assimilation, guilt, and more.

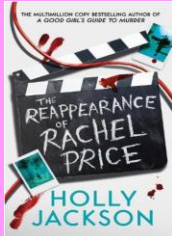


Pupil Recommendations



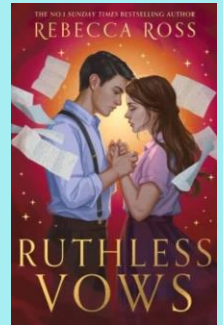
The Reappearance of Rachel Price by Holly Jackson

A missing persons case is dragged up from the past when the Price family agree to a true crime documentary. Bel can't wait for filming to end, for life to go back to normal. But then Rachel Price reappears, and life will never be normal again...



Ruthless Vows By Rebecca Ross

The spirited sequel to Ross' much-loved romantic fantasy *Divine Rivals* pitches journalists Roman and Iris further into a magical war, as a mysterious new channel of correspondence opens up.



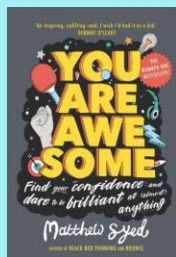
The Pumpkin Spice Café by Laurie Gilmore

The perfect autumnal romance read, Gilmore's heartwarming tale finds upbeat city girl Jeanie relocate to a small town to run her aunt's beloved cafe and cause one irascible local's heart to flutter.



You Are Awesome by Matthew Syed

The two-time Olympian and bestselling author of *Black Box Thinking* turns his expertise to inspiring the next generation. A powerful, positive tool to help children find their self-belief.



Good Girl, Bad Blood by Holly Jackson

Pip Fitz-Amobi is not a detective anymore. With the help of Ravi Singh, she released a true-crime podcast about the murder case they solved together last year. The podcast has gone viral, yet Pip insists her investigating days are behind her. But she will have to break that promise when someone she knows goes missing..

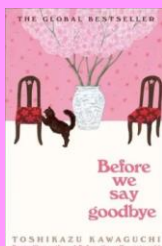


Staff Recommendations



Before We Say Goodbye by Toshikazu Kawaguchi

Toshikazu Kawaguchi's poignant *Before We Say Goodbye*, translated from Japanese, explores the age-old question: what would you do if you could travel back in time? More importantly, who would you want to meet, maybe for one last time?



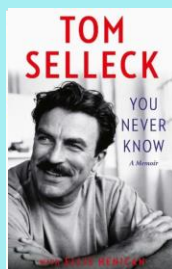
No Excuses by Alison Colwell

Heart-breaking and insightful all at the same time. I started reading this over the half-term break and managed to get through it in one day. A must read for anyone looking for an insight into the teaching practice.



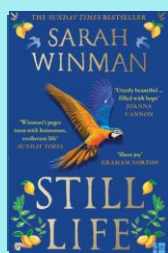
You Never Know by Tom Sellick

Informal and revealing, Sellick's hugely enjoyable memoir charts his path from college jock to screen megastar in the phenomenally popular *Magnum P.I.* with candour, charm and hard-won wisdom.



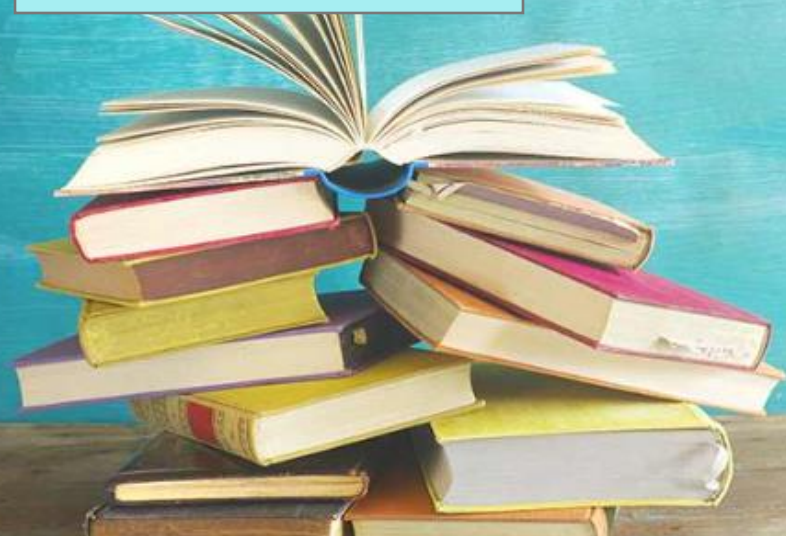
Still Life by Sarah Winman

Moving from the Tuscan Hills and piazzas of Florence, to the smog of London's East End, *Still Life* is a sweeping, joyful novel about beauty, love, family and fate.



Bored of Lunch- Healthy Air Fryer by Nathan Anthony

All new super-speedy, calorie-counted air fryer recipes so you can have delicious, healthy food on the table in 30 minutes or less. From Nathan Anthony, author of three instant no.1 bestsellers, comes a brand new book of quick, easy and healthy recipes for your air fryer.



Local Libraries

This month's library is right on our doorstep, so you won't have to travel too far!

Based in Stockton, Roseworth Library boasts a wide selection of reading materials from lots of different genres. Whether you're looking for your next read or on the hunt for some extra revision materials, Roseworth has a brilliant selection and quiet study spaces for you to work at.

Surrounded by peaceful green areas, there are also lots of outdoor areas for you to go and enjoy your next read.



First liners



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

1. 'It was a bright, cold day in April and the clocks were striking thirteen.'

2. 'It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife.'

3. We slept in what had once been the gymnasium.

4. It was a queer, sultry summer, the summer the electrocuted the Rosenbergs and I didn't know what I was doing in New York'.

5. 'All children, except one, grow up.'

6. 'It's a funny thing about mothers and fathers.'

7. 'My name was salmon, like the fish; first name, Susie'.

8. 'I am always drawn back to places where I have lived, the houses and their neighbourhoods.'

9. Here is the house.



Word of the Month

Nurture

(Origin: Middle English)

Nurture is most often used to mean “to help someone or something grow, develop, or succeed.” It can also mean “to take care of someone or something that is growing or developing by providing food, protection, a place to live, etc.,” or “to hold something, such as an idea or strong feeling, in your mind for a long time.”

It can also be used somewhat formally as a noun referring to the care and attention given to someone or something that is growing or developing.



Reading for Pleasure

Reading is a huge part of our academy. Throughout our school, we have implemented a number of reading strategies that will give pupils access to a wide range of literature both inside and outside the classroom.

Our *Reading for Pleasure* lessons have been met with fantastic positivity and enthusiasm from our KS3 pupils. Texts have been specifically chosen that link not only to our curriculum, but to our Christian values as well. This year, pupils will enjoy a range of texts such as:

Year 7

The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis
Once by Morris Gleitzman

Year 8

The Shadow in the North by Philip Pullman
Then by Morris Gleitzman

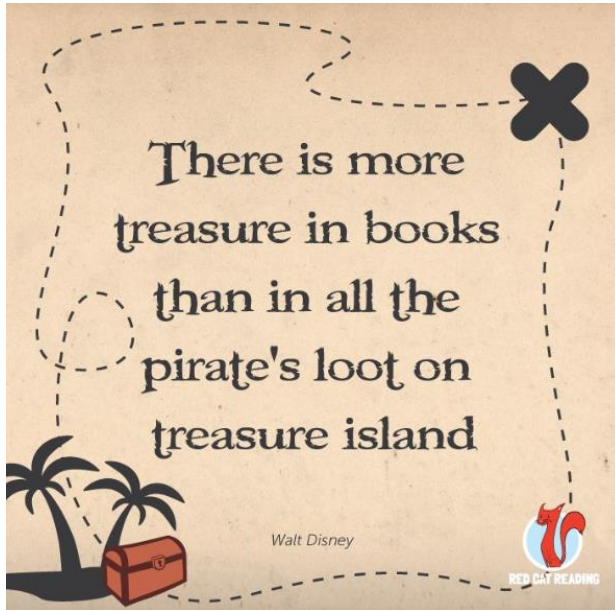
Year 9

The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Q. Raúf



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 Walt Disney:



We 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

We hope you've enjoyed March's newsletter and look forward to sending you April's edition!

*Answers to First Lines:

1. 1984 by George Orwell
2. Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen
3. The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood
4. The Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath
5. Peter Pan by J.M. Barrie
6. Matilda Roald Dahl
7. The Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold
8. Breakfast at Tiffany's by Truman Capote
9. The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison

