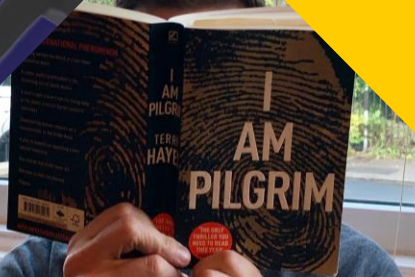




IAN RAMSEY CE ACADEMY

Together to learn, to grow, to serve

Reading Newsletter



this MONTH in history

1	1938 Colleen McCullough is born.	2	1840 Thomas Hardy is born.	3	1913 William Inge is born.	4	1940 Robin Cook is born.	5	1958 James Branch Cabell dies.	6	1940 John Steinbeck wins a Pulitzer for <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> .	7	1931 Gene Wolfe is born.
8	1880 Gustave Flaubert dies.	9	1860 J. M. Barrie is born.	10	1933 Barbara Taylor Bradford is born.	11	2001 Douglas Adams dies.	12	1925 Amy Lowell dies.	13	1907 Daphne Du Maurier is born.	14	1912 August Strindberg dies.
15	1886 Emily Dickinson dies.	16	1905 H. E. Bates is born.	17	1905 John Patrick is born.	18	1908 Ian Fleming is born.	19	1930 Lorraine Hansberry is born.	20	1799 Honoré de Balzac is born.	21	1688 Alexander Pope is born.
22	1859 Arthur Conan Doyle is born.	23	1958 Mitch Albom is born.	24	1905 Mikhail Sholokhov is born.	25	1803 Ralph Waldo Emerson is born.	26	1916 Walker Percy is born.	27	1867 Arnold Bennett is born.	28	2014 Maya Angelou dies at age 86.
29	1938 Ron Milner is born.	30	1593 Christopher Marlowe dies.	31	1819 Walt Whitman is born.								

M A Y

Welcome

Welcome to our May edition of the Reading Newsletter! We hope you enjoyed our last edition. This month's is packed with even more reading-related information. We 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 us know what you would like to be included?

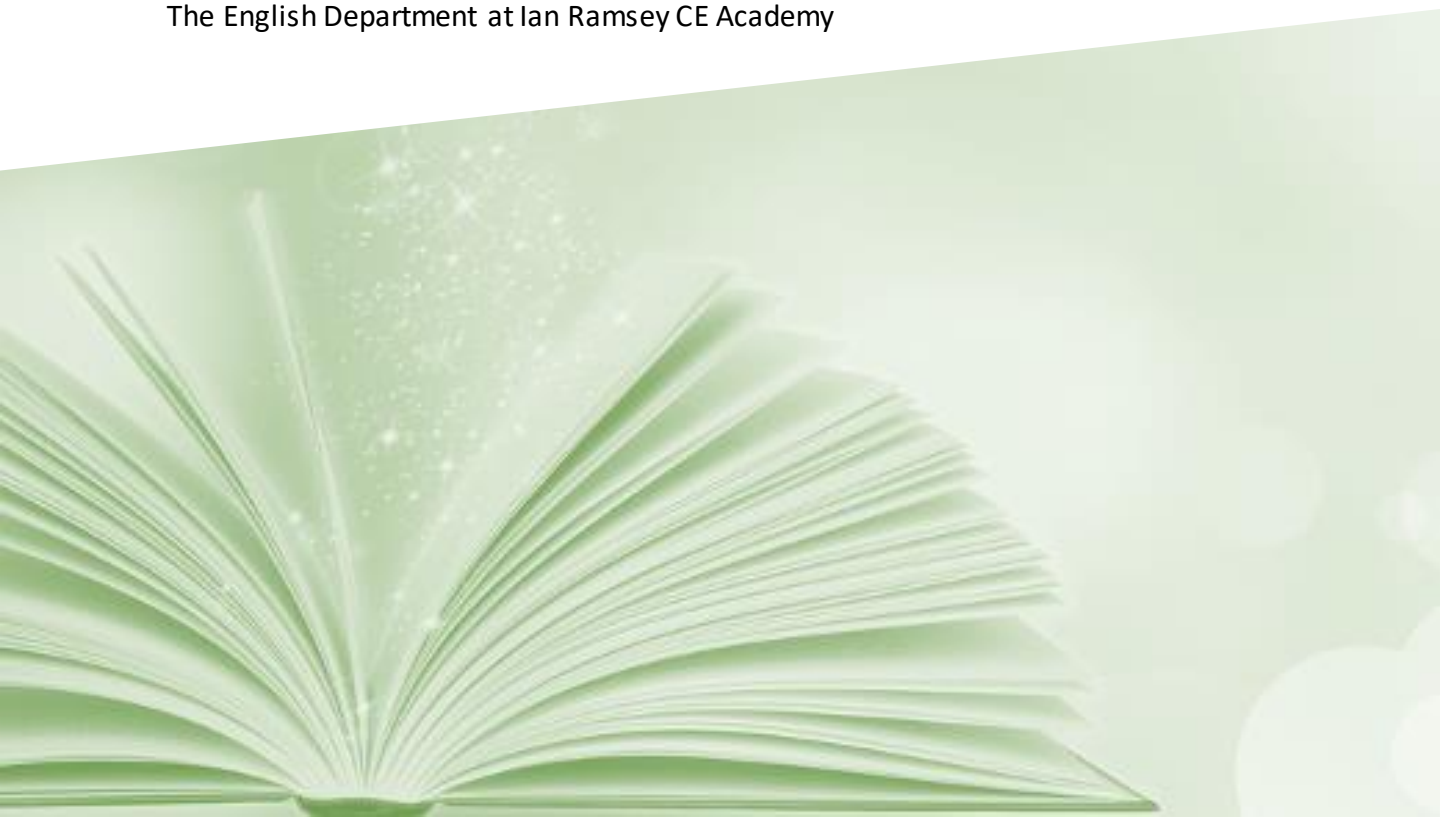
This newsletter is a chance to find out about:

- 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: Ross Montgomery



Ross Montgomery is a celebrated British author known for his captivating children's books. Born in 1986 in England, Montgomery developed a love for storytelling and literature from a young age.

His works often explore themes of friendship, bravery, and the importance of imagination. His ability to craft engaging, adventurous tales has made him a beloved figure in children's literature. He continues to write and inspire young readers with his creative and enchanting stories.



Author to academy

Dear reader,

I've always loved stories, for as long as I can remember. I love reading them, and I love being read to. I love watching films, which is just another way of telling a story – I love playing computer games, which is often another form of story, too.

But for me, getting to write my own stories was the most rewarding part. I loved creating characters that make people laugh, or constructing scenes that shocked or terrified people! How much fun is it to tell a story to our friends, and see their enjoyment as they gasp in disbelief? That's what I loved doing, more than anything – I still love it now.

If you like the idea of telling your own stories, the absolute BEST way to start is by reading as much as you can. I always say that books are like a writer's oxygen: reading is like breathing in, and writing is like breathing out. In order to create your own amazing stories – your own worlds, your own characters, your own brilliant ideas – you have to read, and see how other people tell their own stories.

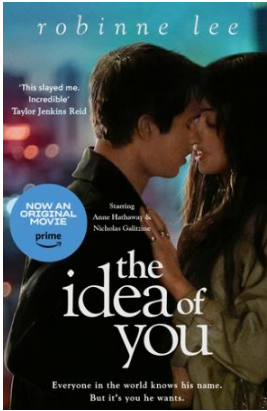
You may not enjoy every book you pick up – I certainly don't! – but somewhere out there is the perfect book for you. And the more of them you read, the better you'll get at telling your own stories – the ones I know you have burning inside you, just waiting to be told.

Go forth, and tell your stories!



ROSS MONTGOMERY

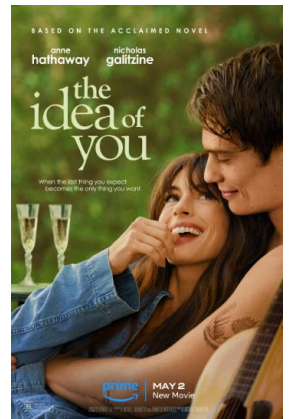
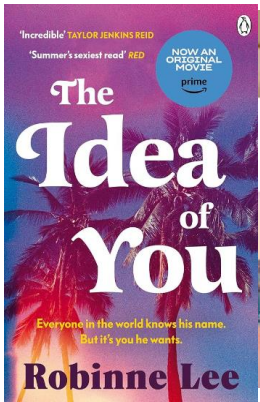
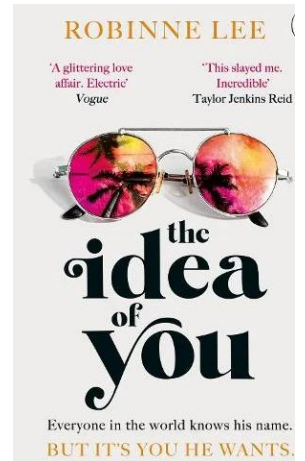
From page to screen



"The Idea of You," directed by Michael Showalter, is a romantic comedy based on Robinne Lee's novel of the same title.

The film stars Anne Hathaway as Solène Marchand, a 40-year-old divorced art gallery owner who begins a whirlwind romance with Hayes Campbell, a 24-year-old member of a popular boy band, played by Nicholas Galitzine. The story explores the challenges of their age difference and the pressures of fame.

If you're looking for a romantic tear-jerker, look no further!





? DID YOU KNOW ?

The word “bestseller” for books was first used in *Fools of Nature* by Alice Brown in 1889. Furthermore, Alice Brown was an American novelist, poet, playwright, and best known as a writer of local colour stories. Alice Brown was born on December 5, 1857, and passed away on June 21, 1948, at the age of 91.

Hugh Beaver managed Guinness Breweries in the 1950s went to a shooting party in County Wexford, where he missed his shot at a golden plover. In contrast, he argued it was the fastest game bird in Europe but consequently couldn't find a reference book that proved it. That's why Hugh Beaver created the Guinness Book of Records.

The Klencke Atlas is one of the largest books on Earth. Moreover, The Klencke Atlas is a unique work without other copies, the book measures 1.75 meters tall, and 1.90 meters wide when it is open. Consequently, it is so heavy that almost 6 to 7 people need to carry the book.

The word 'bookworm' originated from insects who live in and eat the binding of books. Likewise, the larvae of various types of insects inclusive of moths, cockroaches, and beetles may chew and devour the books literally.



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

May Reading Challenge

My Reading Challenge May Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01 An autobiography of a musician	02 A short story	03 A book recommended by a parent	04 Made into a movie	05 A murder mystery	06 A book recommended by a friend	07 A banned book
08 About an author you have already studied	09 About another country	10 A book recommended by a teacher	11 A new release	12 About positivity	13 A local author	14 A true story
15 About friendship	16 A book set in the rainforest	17 A book set in the future	18 A newspaper article	19 A comic strip	20 About World War II	21 A book under 200 pages
22 A book over 500 pages	23 Set in fictional town	24 A book from the library	25 Re-read your favorite	26 A book by your favourite author	27 Set in the 70's	28 About healthy eating
29 Poems	30 A non-fiction book	31 A book you wouldn't usually read				

• 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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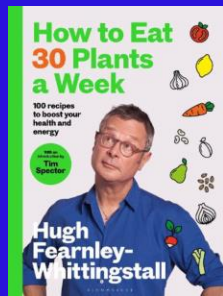


What's new?

Non-fiction:

How to Eat 30 Plants a Week by Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall

From a cracking crab salad to goat's cheese and greens herby pie, this sumptuous cookbook from River Cottage's Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall brims with easy, inspiring recipes to incorporate a range of vegetables in your diet.



Fiction

Blue Sisters by Coco Mellors

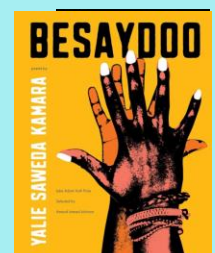
The bestselling author of *Cleopatra* & *Frankenstein* delivers another enthralling examination of the intricacies of human nature and love, as three siblings from different corners of the world reunite in New York to mourn the loss of their fourth sister.



Poetry

Besaydoo by Yalie Saweda Kamara

Besaydoo is a tapestry of history, longing, and discovery. In this poetry collection, Kamara draws on her identity as a daughter and Sierra Leonian living in the United States to weave past, present, and future together into an inspiring ode to the journey of life.

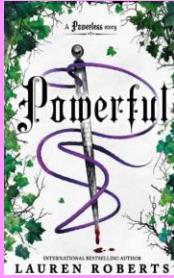


Pupil Recommendations



Powerful by Lauren Roberts

Set in the world of Roberts' bestselling *Powerless* series, the scintillating novella *Powerful* finds Adena and Paedyn torn apart when the latter is selected for the deadly Purging Trials.



Heartstopper Volume 5 by Alice Oseman

Boy meets boy. Boys become friends. Boys fall in love. The bestselling LGBTQ+ graphic novel about life, love, and everything that happens in between: this is the fifth volume of the *Heartstopper* series.



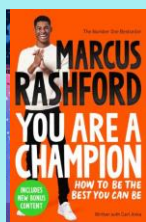
The Body in the Blitz by Robin Stevens

The second compelling Second World War espionage thriller in the Ministry of Unladylike Activity series finds the freshly recruited child spies uncover a mysterious corpse in a bombed-out London home.



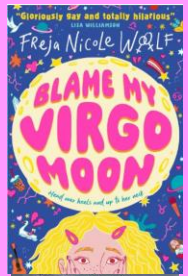
You Are a Champion by Marcus Rashford

Marcus Rashford has proven himself to be a remarkable role model for the nation's children, and now he delivers an inspirational volume to help develop the game-changers and ethical crusaders of tomorrow.



Blame My Virgo Moon By Freja Nicole Woolf

The stunning sequel to Waterstones Children's Book Prize winner *The Last Bear*, Gold's exquisitely written and enthralling novel follows April's journey to Svalbard amidst rumours that her friend Bear has been shot.

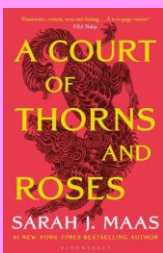


Staff Recommendations



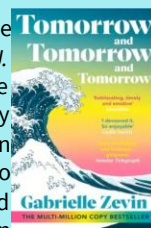
A Court of Thorns and Roses by Sarah J. Maas

Dripping with passion and danger, this tantalising opening to the bestselling fantasy romance series (inspired by Beauty and the Beast) from Sarah J Maas follows mortal Feyre who, after accidentally killing a faerie, finds herself hostage in the mystical lands of Prythian.



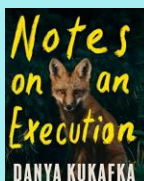
Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow by Gabrielle Zevin

From the author of the beloved *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry* comes a heartwarming tale of human connection, creativity and collaboration as two children who meet in a hospital go on to pursue their dreams and identities through the production of video games.



Notes on an Execution by Danya Kukafka

Ansel Packer is scheduled to die in twelve hours. He knows what he's done, and now awaits the same fate he forced on those girls, years ago. Ansel doesn't want to die; he wants to be celebrated, understood. But this is not his story.



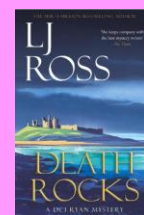
A Slow Burning Fire by Paula Hawkins

The author of the bestselling phenomenon *The Girl on the Train* returns with another white-knuckle thriller awash with unbearable suspense and jaw-dropping misdirection, as three women are brought into conflict through a brutal murder.



Death Rocks by LJ Ross

DCI Ryan faces a race against time to uncover the connection between a spate of seemingly motiveless crimes in this page-turning entry in Ross' bestselling series.



Local Libraries

FarFaria Stories

Boasting an impressive range of titles *FarFaria Stories* is a fantastic digital library that can be enjoyed by parents and young children alike.

The app offers a range of free books, with subscribers able to enjoy one free book a day. With a variety of material on there, there really is something for everyone.

The app allows you to read independently or have a story read to you. You can even watch videos alongside selected titles.

To see what *FarFaria* has to offer, download the app today or go to <https://www.farfaria.com/catalog>.



First liners



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

1. The sun shone, having no alternative, on the nothing new.

2. One September evening when Walter Lasher returned from the city after a hard day's work and was walking to his car...'

3. Through the fence, between the curling flower spaces, I could see them hitting.

4. I'd been waiting for the vampire for years when he walked into a bar.

5. Every summer Lin Kong returned to Goose Village to divorce his wife, Shuyu.

6. They say it came first from Africa, carried in the screams of the enslaved...'

7. There was a boy called Eustace Clarence Scrubb, and he almost deserved it.

8. Everyone my age remembers where they were and what they were doing when they first heard about the contest.

9. We shot dogs.



Word of the Month

Panoply

(Origin: Greek)

The word 'panoply' traces its roots back to ancient Greece, originating from the Greek word "panoplia," a compound of "pan-" meaning "all" and "hopla" meaning "arms" or "armor."

In a time when warriors donned full suits of gleaming armor to parade their strength and readiness, "panoplia" symbolised not just the complete set of a soldier's protective gear but also the grand display and grandeur associated with it.

Over centuries, the term evolved to encompass any impressive array or magnificent display, capturing the essence of a splendid and comprehensive collection, whether of armaments, talents, or experiences.



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. We leave you with the words of Frederick Douglass:



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 May's newsletter and look forward to sending you June's edition!

*Answers to First Lines:

1. *Murphy* by Samuel Beckett
2. *The Slap* by Christos Tsiolkas
3. *The Sound and The Fury* by William Faulkner
4. *Dead Until Dark* by Charlaine Harris
5. *Waiting* by Ha Jin
6. *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wado* by Junot Diaz
7. *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* by C.S. Lewis
8. *Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline
9. *Redeployment* by Phil Kay

