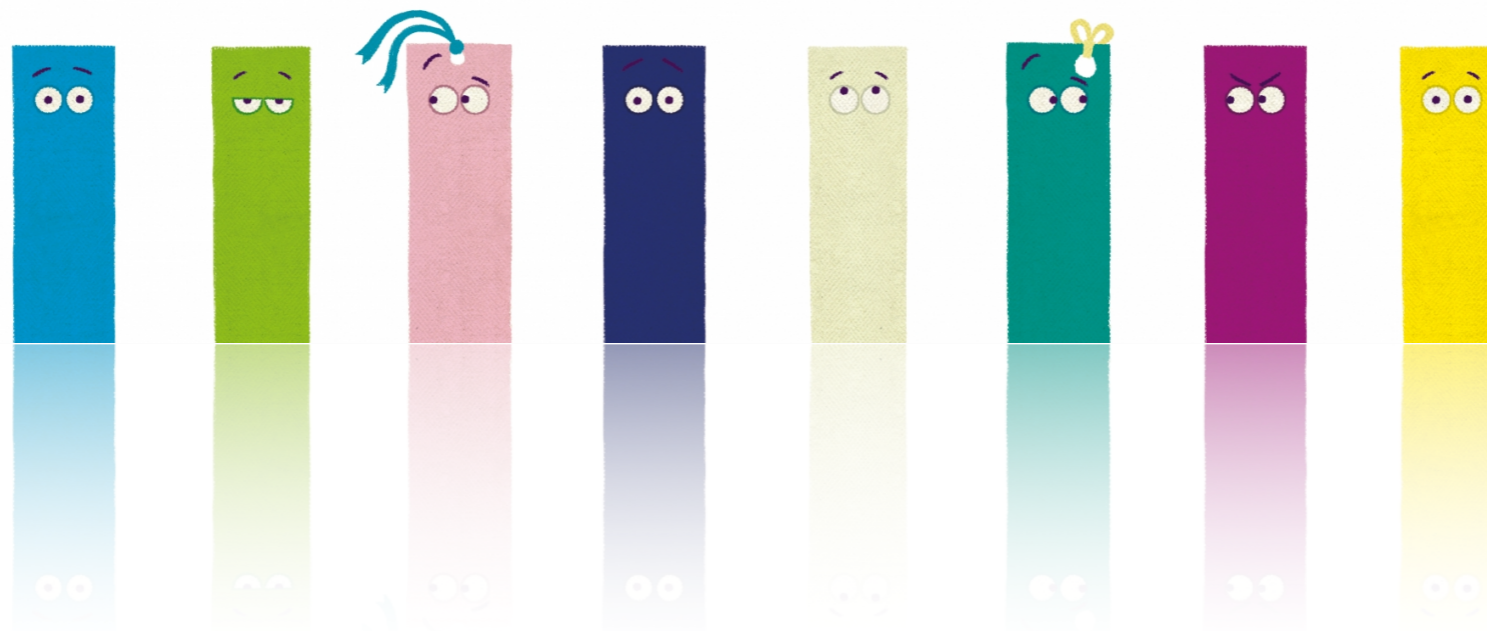
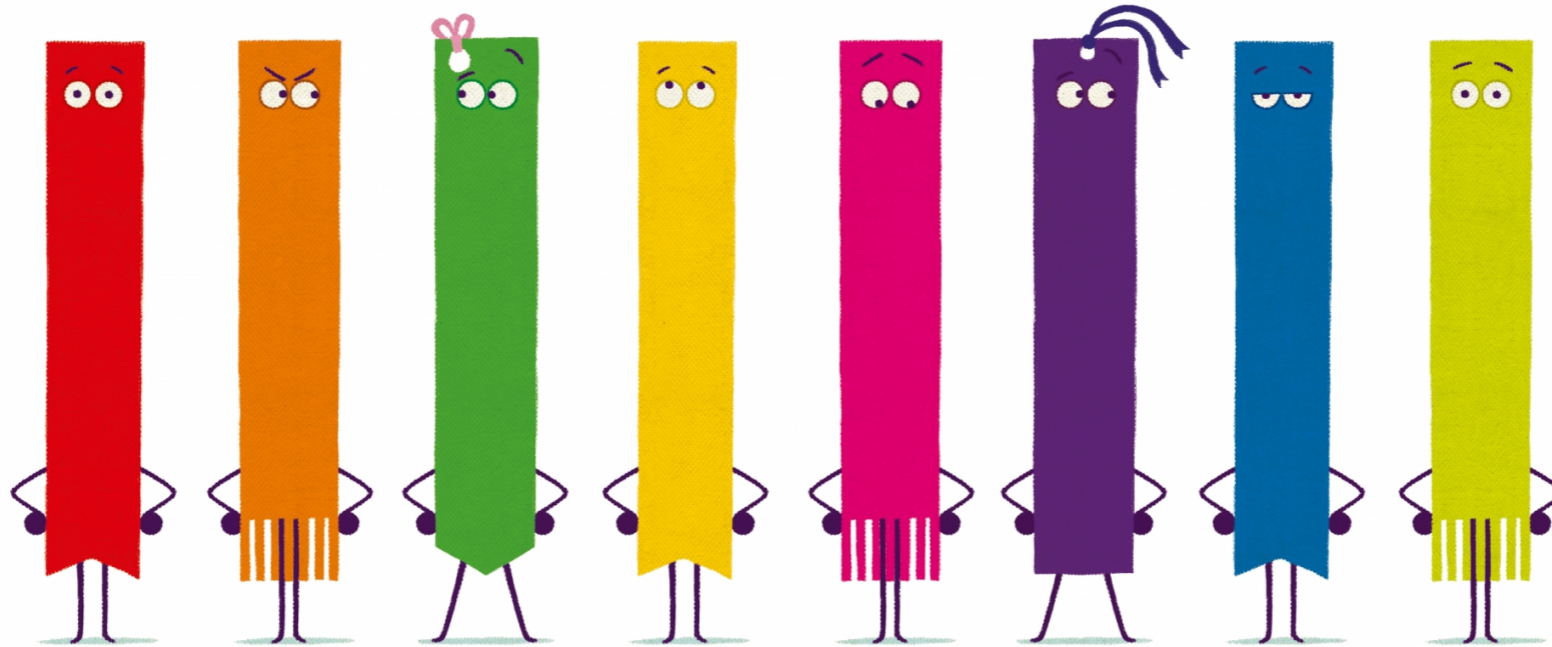


Roundwood Reads

WORLD
BOOK
DAY

4 MARCH 2021



A compilation of staff book recommendations to celebrate World Book Day

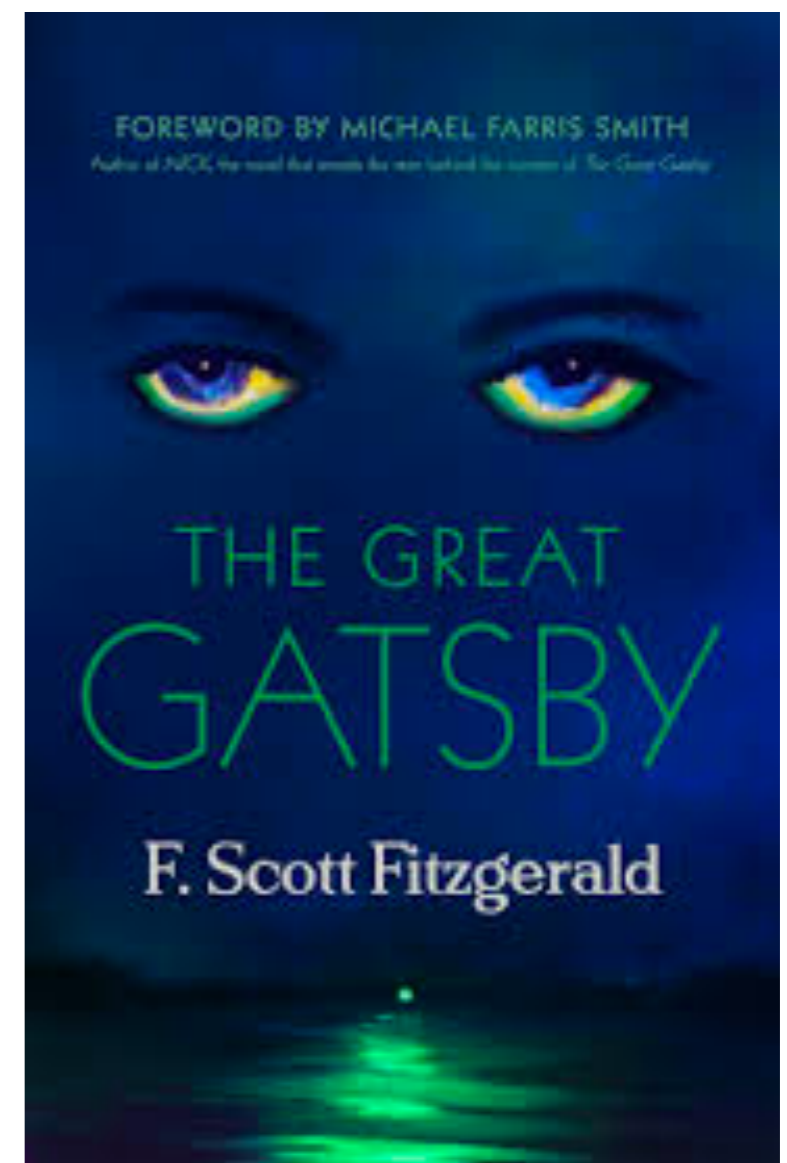
Reading isn't just for World Book Day; a good book lasts a lifetime!

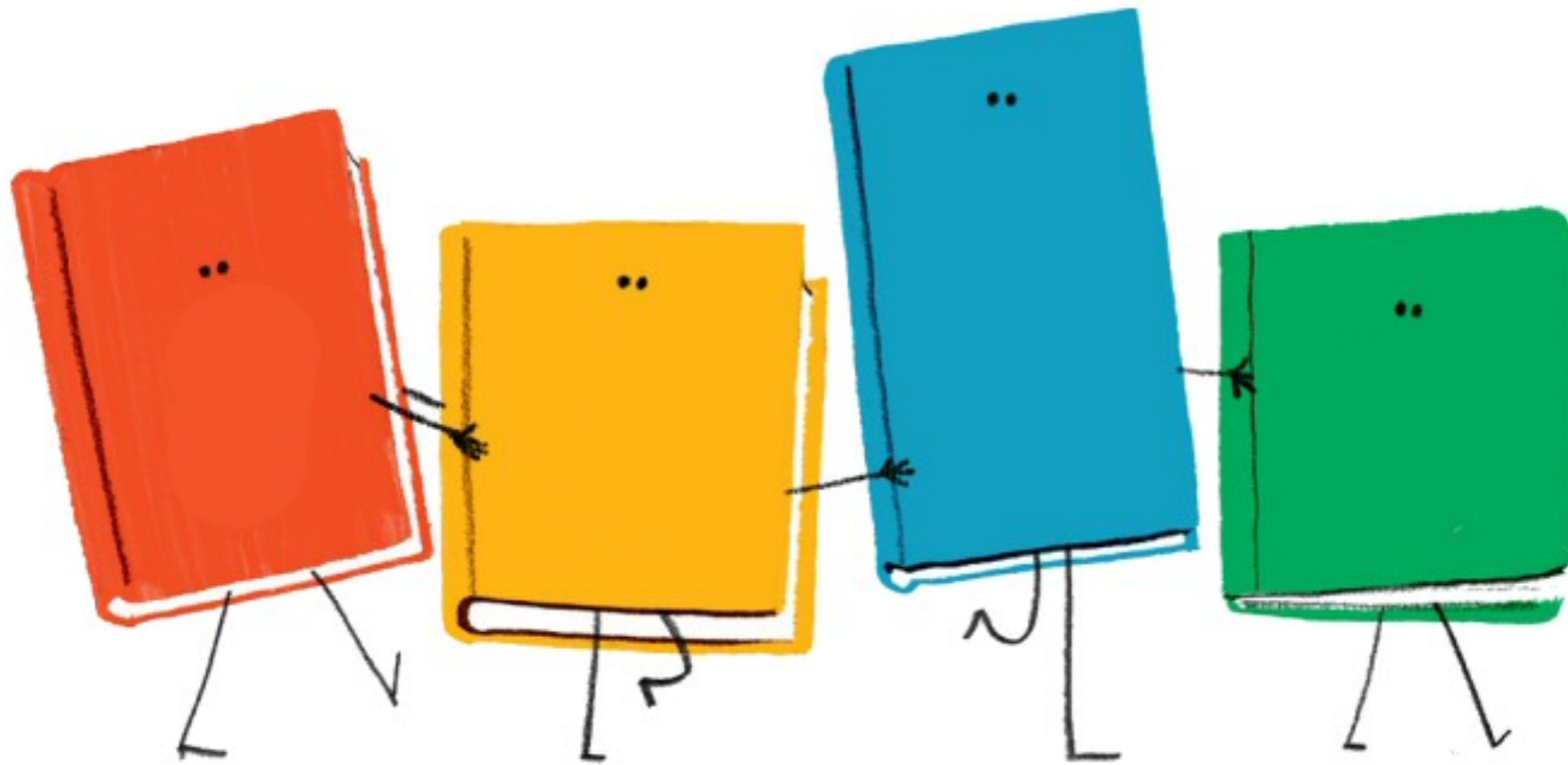
As part of the celebrations for World Book Day, staff were asked to share either their favourite book, a book that had an impact on them or both. It has been lovely to see people sharing their favourites and to read the reasons why and how literature has had an impact on them. Books aren't just for World Book Day and you can really feel the passion that staff feel for these books and the lasting impressions that they have been left with. The compilation is a varied range of classics, modern reads and nonfiction, so there should be something for everyone by a range of diverse authors.

So, I am now sharing this list with you. Please see if there is anything that takes your interest and have a read. I'm sure your teachers would love to discuss their favourite books with you or be pleased to hear that you are reading them too.

Miss L McMahon
Head of English

P.s. 'The Great Gatsby' comes up more than once, so it's obviously a 'great' read!



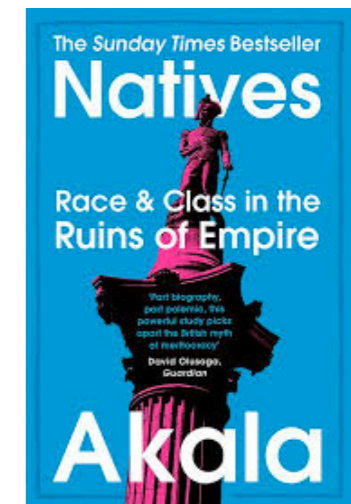
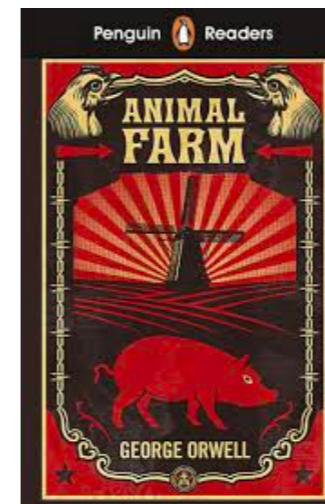


Mrs F Bridgman

Teacher of Sociology/Head of Year 12

Favourite Book: *Animal Farm* by George Orwell

Book that had an impact on me: *Natives* by Akala



Mrs Bridgman says: I read *Animal Farm* when I was about 16 and I can honestly say I think it is what first got me interested in the inequalities there are in the world. I had the most amazing English teacher who really bought it to life for me. *Natives* by Akala was hugely eye opening as there have been so many historical atrocities against people of colour that I was unaware of until I read this book.

Miss H Budarkiewicz

Teacher of Science/i.c Chemistry

Book that had an impact on me: *It's Not Okay to Feel Blue (and other lies)* - Scarlett Curtis



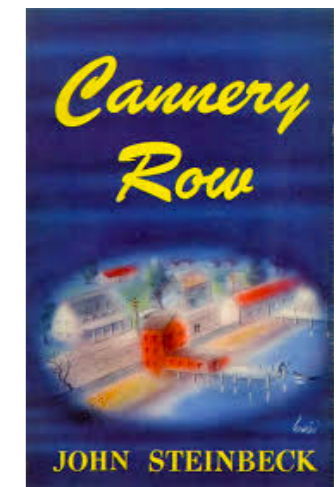
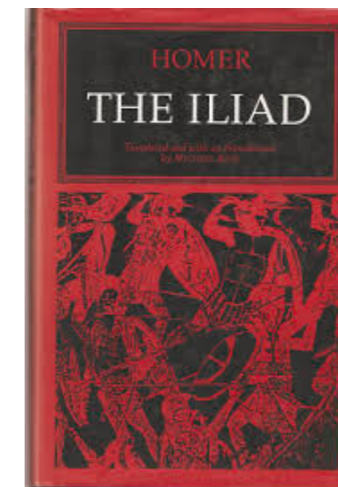
Miss Budarkiewicz says: A really moving set of true short stories from people in all walks of life and the impact their mental health has on their lives. The message behind the whole book is that its okay to struggle with your mental health and it shouldn't have such a stigma surrounding it. Somehow the book strikes a beautifully charming and light-hearted note, whilst never devaluing its incredibly important message. As the author herself says: 'It's OK if everything might feel a bit overwhelming. It's OK to talk about it. It's OK to talk about it. It's OK to not want to talk about it. It's OK to find it funny. It's OK to be human.'

Mrs M Craig

Librarian

Favourite Book: *The Iliad* - Homer

Book that had an impact on me: *Cannery Row* - John Steinbeck



Mrs Craig says: How does a librarian chose a favourite book? I have chosen the Iliad as it is the 'story' I have read the most and I never tire of it. It has been rewritten so many times with so many different perspectives. There is so much to explore with powerful characters and a complex web of interactions and emotions. I have chosen Cannery Row as it is essentially another of my favourite books. The central character Doc is based on a close friend of Steinbeck's and it is a remarkable tribute to friendship and respect. It's about loyalty and support for others. Doc is by no means perfect and Steinbeck does not try to hide that but he is a great friend to those that know him. It just makes me feel good (and laugh at the frog catching chapter) every time I read it.

Mrs C Croft

Assistant Finance Manager

Book that had an impact on me: *Bird Song* - Sebastian Faulks



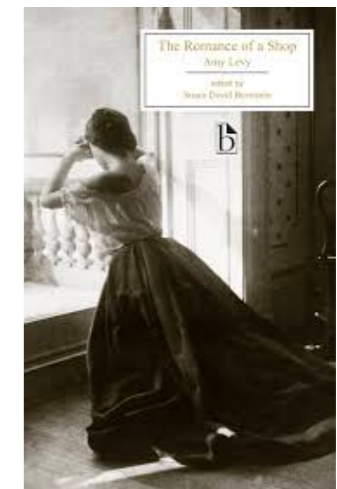
Mrs Croft says: *Bird Song* is a novel about the horror of the first world war but also about love and friendship. It had a profound effect on me. This text is suitable for KS4 upwards.

Mrs S Crook

English Teacher

Favourite Book: *The Woman in White* - Wilkie Collins

Book that had an impact on me: *The Romance of a Shop* - Amy Levy



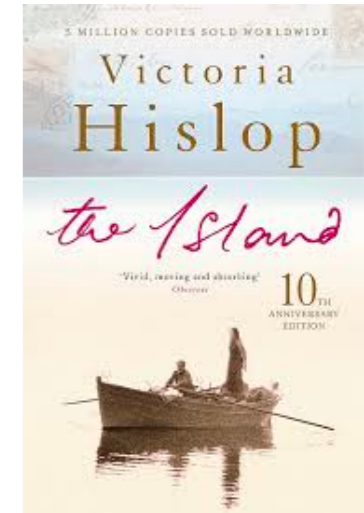
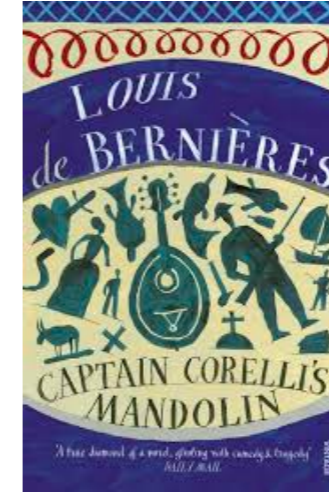
Mrs Crook says: *The Woman in White* is fabulous - the first novel of the Victorian sensation genre - it's a thrilling mystery that had me gripped with all its twists and turns; a gripping story of desire, ruthless ambition and chilling suspense. I love the way it blends Gothic horror with psychological realism. Amy Levy is a little known writer who would influence modernist writers such as Virginia Woolf - *The Romance of a Shop* contributes/responds to the "new woman movement" of the late 19th century. It explores themes of marginality and ultimately conveys how difficult and yet how exhilarating it was to be a woman alone in London in the 1880s.

Mrs M Darvill

Exams Officer

Favourite Book: *Captain Corelli's Mandolin* - Louis de Bernières

Book that had an impact on me: *The Island* - Victoria Hislop



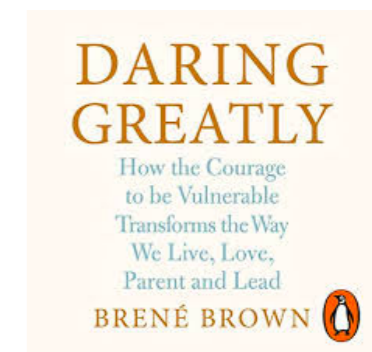
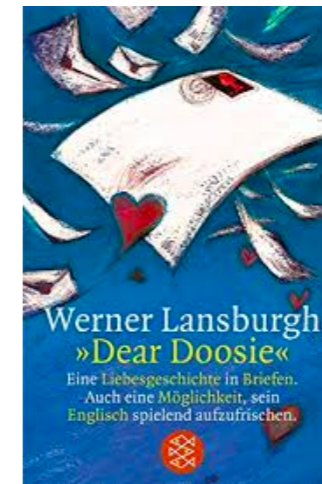
Mrs Darvill says: *Captain Corelli's Mandolin* - the book is so much better than the film and as I read it while on a Greek island, it was all the more poignant. *The Island* I read before visiting Spinalonga - love all Victoria Hislop books as she creates characters but bases them in real events.

Mrs L Davies

Head of MFL

Favourite Book: *Dear Doosie: Eine Liebesgeschichte in Briefen* - Werner Lansburgh

Book that had an impact on me: *Daring Greatly* - Brené Brown

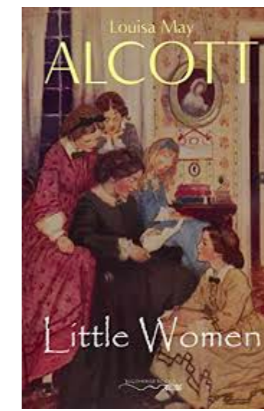


Mrs Davies says: *Dear Doosie* is a book, in which English and German are really cleverly interwoven. At times you think that it's just one language you are reading. It's a really fun book. My second book, *Daring Greatly*, is a fabulous non-fiction book and I found it really transformative in the way I see life, deal with change, make choices and take risks. It teaches you that vulnerability is powerful.

Miss E Ellis

PE Teacher/Second in Dept.

Book that had an impact on me: *Little Women* - Louisa May Alcott



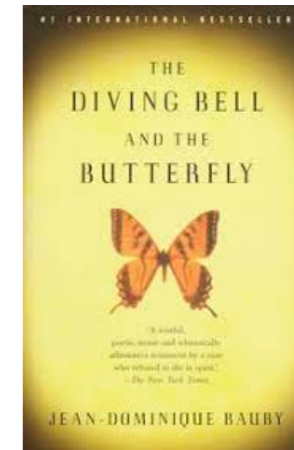
Miss Ellis says: Having 2 sisters and being the 'sporty' female of us three made me love and relate to this book. I love how Alcott illustrates the lives and differences between the sisters. I really felt I was Jo! It really looks into how Jo found it difficult being different at times, by the battling between stereotypes and being who you wanted to be with people to support you. An absolute classic and must read!



Mr M Garbutt

Head of Expressive Arts

Favourite Book: *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly* - Jean-Dominique Bauby



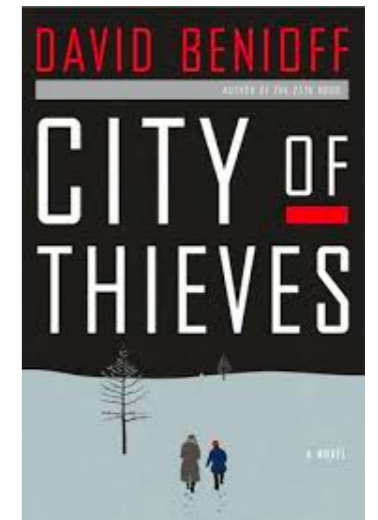
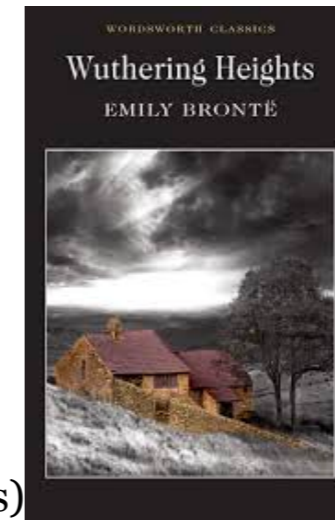
Mr Garbutt says: It is one of the most beautifully written memoirs that was created by the writer and his carer by creating a code involving him blinking to signify each and every letter of every word as he was fully paralysed and couldn't speak or write.

Mrs A Gray

Assistant Headteacher

Favourite Book: *Wuthering Heights* - Emily Bronte

Book that had an impact on me: *City of Thieves* - David Benioff (Ks4 upwards)



Mrs Gray says: I love to read and I am ashamed to say that often after reading a book, I tend to need a 'reminder' about the overall plot if it has been a few years since reading it. However, *City of Thieves* has been burnt into my memory as a fascinating read with such an unusual premise that it is always the first novel I think of when people ask me to recommend a book. It is a bit grisly in places, but I love the historical context and I think the author (David Benioff - he wrote the screen play for Game of Thrones) is brilliant at painting a scene in your mind. Sometimes, you wish he wasn't so good, as some of the scenes are more than a little shocking, but when I finished the book, I felt a bit sad that my journey was over and this is why I want everyone to experience this book.

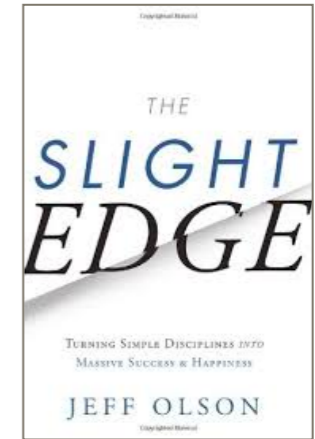
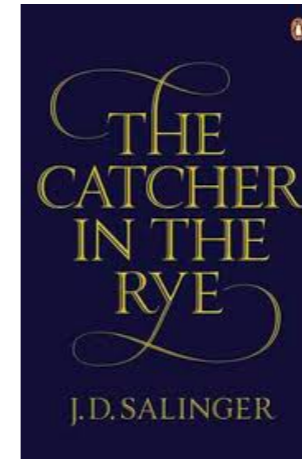
Mr P Hambridge

Head of Science

Favourite Book: *Catcher in the Rye* - J.D Salinger

Book that had an impact on me: *The Slight Edge* - Jeff Olson

Mr Hambridge says: This book changed my whole outlook whilst I was at university. I have read it multiple times and would highly recommend it as an easy and inspiring read.

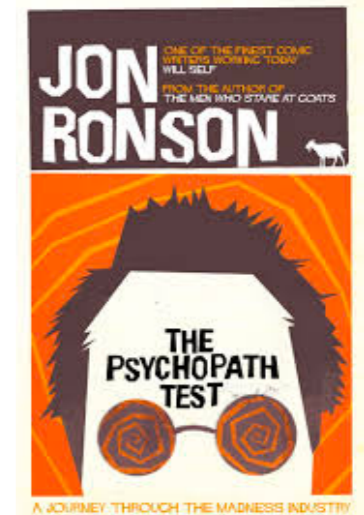
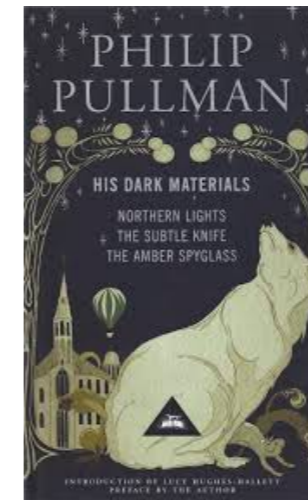


Mrs G Harvey

Head of PRE

Favourite Book: *His Dark Materials* - Philip Pullman

Book that had an impact on me: *The Psychopath Test* - Jon Ronson



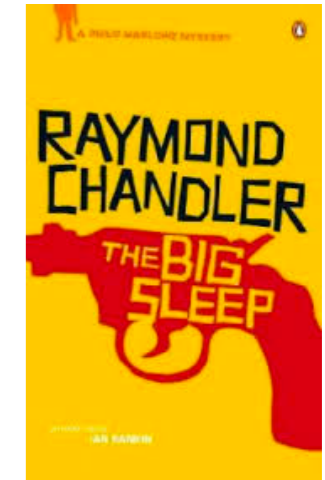
Mrs Harvey says: *His Dark Materials* is a wonderful mixture of reality and fantasy that touches on religion, ethics through a fascinating story of alternative universes, angels, life after death and souls or should I say dust. It is such a beautifully woven story that takes you on a deep and questioning adventure. Jon Ronson book was just an amazing eye opener into the world of what a psychopath is and how the test and treatment have developed. It is written in like a story where you want to know more and you are drawn into the research journey of Jon and all the interesting discoveries and interviews he does. Just gave such insight into this complex world.

Mr A Henshall

Headteacher

Favourite Book: *On the Road* - Jack Kerouac

Book that had an impact on me: *The Big Sleep* - Raymond Chandler



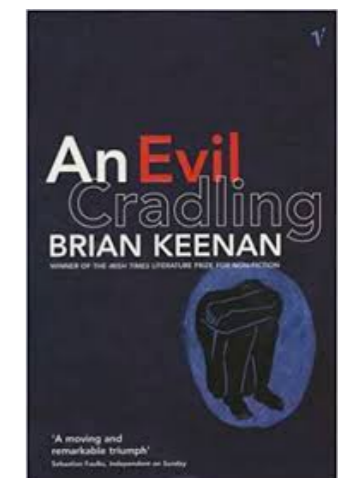
Mr Henshall says: *On the Road* had a major influence on me when I was a teenager and I recommend it to any teenager with a rebellious streak (i.e. all of you!). As for *The Big Sleep*, I love the gritty realism of this book and the way it evokes American life in the 1930s.

Mrs J Hubbard

Learning Support Teacher

Favourite Book: *Becoming* - Michelle Obama

Book that had an impact on me: *An Evil Cradling* - Brian Keenan

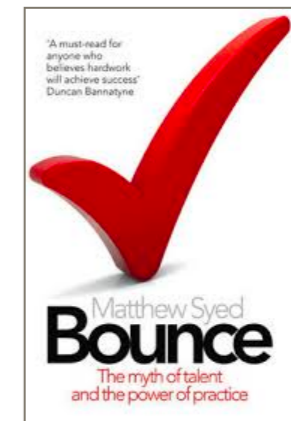


Mrs Hubbard says: Brian Keenan was kidnapped in Beirut in 1985 and held hostage for four and a half years, He experienced brutality at the hands of his captors and spent many months in solitary confinement. Yet he was able to withstand these horrors and, at the end of his ordeal, forgave those who abused him. I have read this book three times now and the author's strength of mind and mental resilience still astounds me. As for *Becoming* by Michelle Obama, this is a hugely influential and inspirational book. I am so glad I read it!

Mr M Hunter

Head of PE

Book that had an impact on me: *Bounce* - Matthew Syed



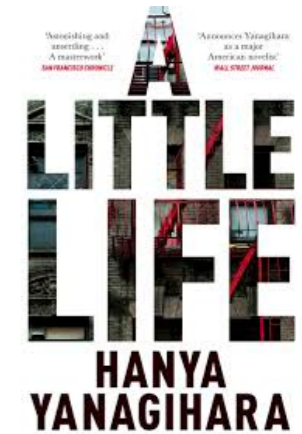
Mr Hunter says: This book completely altered how I thought about talent, potential and personal progress. It discusses the Nature vs Nurture debate from a sporting perspective but the issues raised are transferable to all aspects of life. Lots of brilliant nuggets of information and interesting tales of people's development and the circumstances surrounding it.

Mrs V Jackson

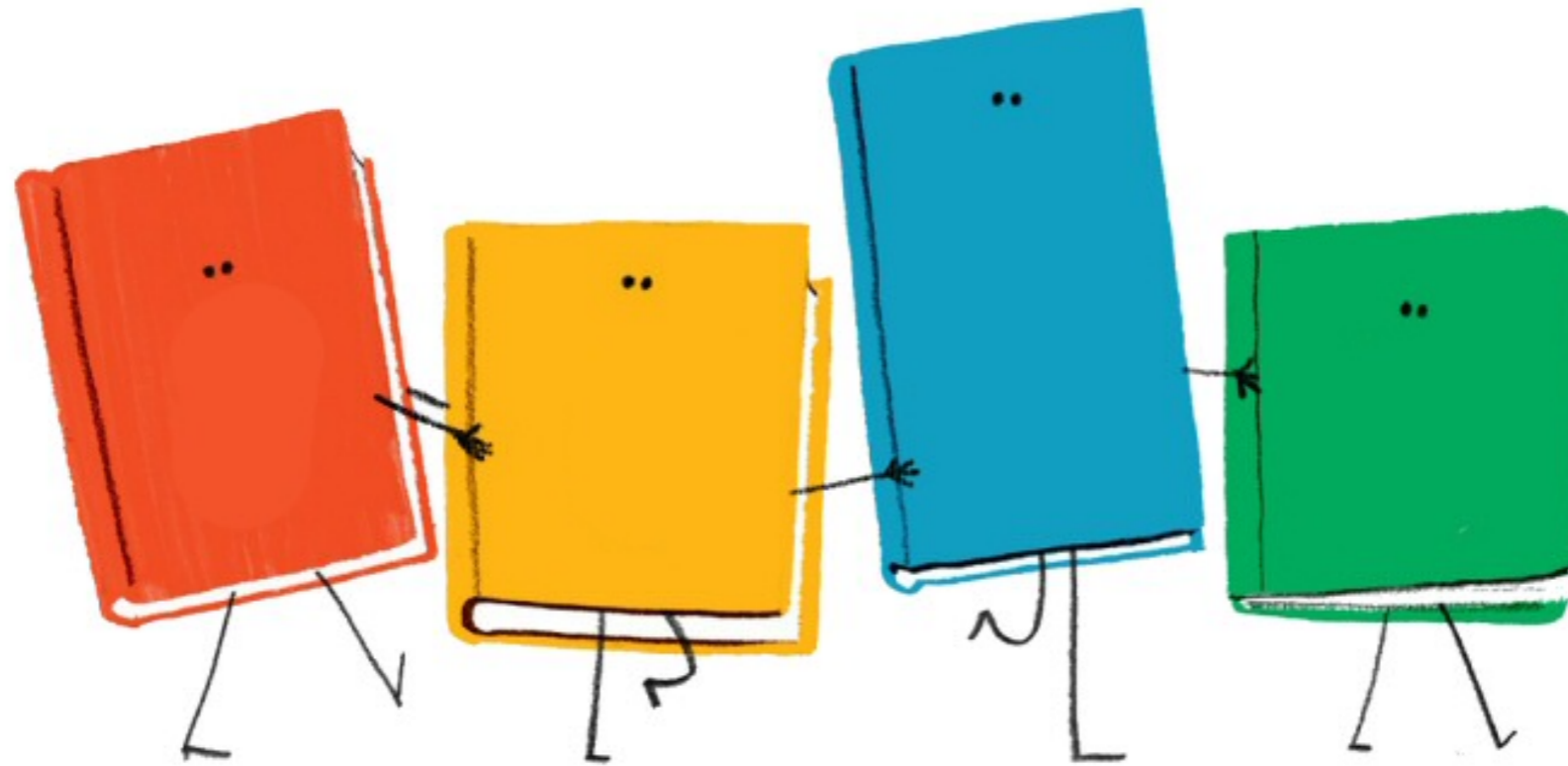
English Teacher

Favourite Book: *Birdsong* - Sebastian Faulks (KS4 and up)

Book that had an impact on me: *A Little Life* - Hanya Yanagihara (For mature reader)



Mrs Jackson says: *Birdsong* is a story of love, desire, death and survival. Stephen Wray comes to France to stay with the Azaire family. There he falls in love with the beautiful married Isabelle. With the world on the brink of war the relationship falters and Stephen volunteers to fight on the Western front. The horrors he experiences during the war and the heartbreaking relationship he has with Isabelle will remain forever engrained onto your heart. Well it has remained on mine anyway. *A Little Life* is the tragic story of Jude, a lawyer with a mysterious past, ambiguous ethnicity and unexplained health issues. As the novel progresses we find out the true horror of Jude's past and the traumas that have been inflicted on him. Even though this is a hard read there are moments of pure hope and beauty, that transcend anything I have read before. You will be rooting for Jude and his friends throughout this Bildungsroman. Weeping, laughing and hoping that there is some light at the end of their journey.



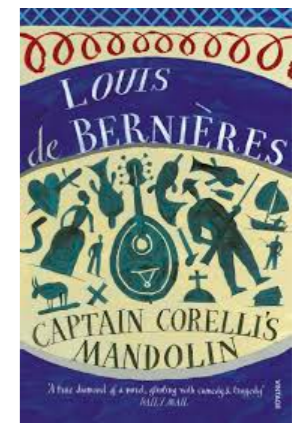
Mrs J John

English Teacher/Deputy Head of Department

Favourite Book: *Wuthering Heights* - Emily Bronte or *The Great Gatsby* - F. Scott Fitzgerald

Book that had an impact on me: *Captain Corelli's Mandolin* - Louis de Bernieres

Mrs John says: All of these books explore deeply flawed characters. I find it hard to hate the people I am supposed to hate, or love the characters I am supposed to love. I love that! I love exploring the complex nature of us all. None of us are 100% good or bad all the time. I also notice that each book I have selected explores the drama of loving someone passionately - well I can't get enough of that. You either do it with your heart and soul, or not at all!

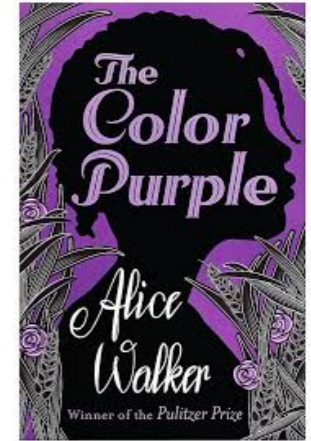
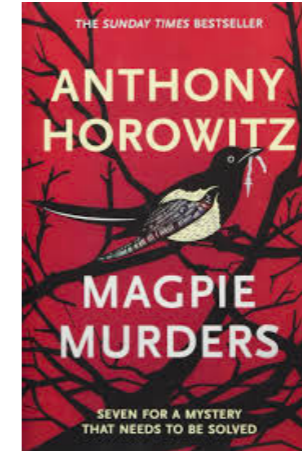


Mrs N Layton

English Teacher

Favourite Book: *Magpie Murders* - Anthony Horowitz

Book that had an impact on me: *The Color Purple* - Alice Walker



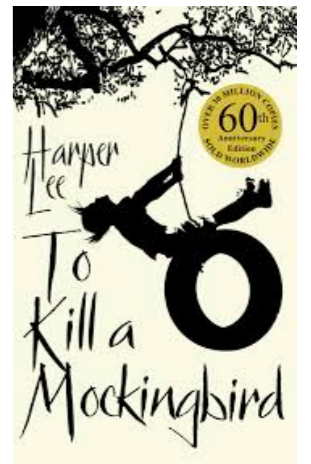
Mrs Layton says: *Magpie Murders* is one of the most gripping, original and 'unputdownable' novels I have read in recent years. A crime novel within a crime novel, the structure of this text is fascinating. Horowitz delivers twist after twist. I just adore it! *The Color Purple* is a text I first read as a late teen, but I have re-discovered it again recently. This is a novel about the relationships between women and their companionship, courage and resilience, and is narrated through a series of letters between two sisters. It is honest, raw, powerful and beautiful and it reduces me to tears every time I read it.

Miss N Linsell

English Teacher

Favourite Book: *The Great Gatsby* - F Scott Fitzgerald

Book that had an impact on me: *To Kill A Mockingbird* - Harper Lee



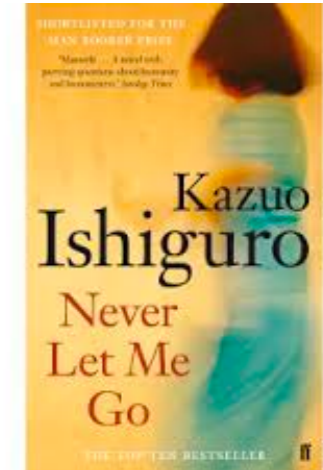
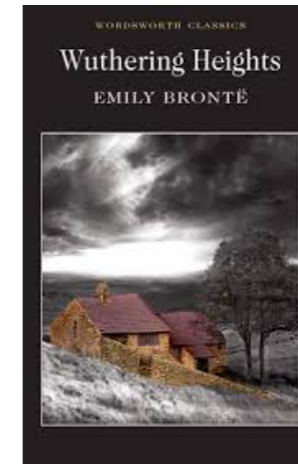
Miss Linsell says: I've always loved *The Great Gatsby* but the best part about it is that every time I read it, I see things I didn't notice before. It's a book that begs to be re-read over and over again. The more you read it, the deeper it becomes! I remember my mum lending me her copy of *To Kill A Mockingbird* that she had from her days at secondary school. I was also at secondary school when I read it, and it made me open my eyes a little more to the world around me and the ways people live. It was great story too, but has never left me. I always think back to it and it reminds me that everyone deserves to be treated equally.

Mrs L Martin

English Teacher/Scholars and Literacy Co-Ordinator

Favourite Book: *Wuthering Heights* - Emily Bronte

Book that had an impact on me: *Never Let Me Go* - Kazuo Ishiguro



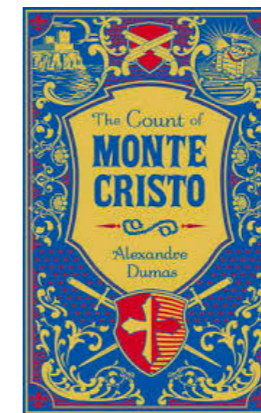
Mrs Martin says: *Never Let Me Go* is a haunting exploration of humanity in the 21st Century as science moves on and on. You soon find out that not all is right for Cathy, the narrator as Ishiguro explores what life would be like for human clones. Terrifying, beautiful and humbling.

Miss L McMahan

Head of English

Favourite Book: *The Count of Monte Cristo* - Alexandre Dumas

Book that had an impact on me: *The Handmaid's Tale* - Margaret Atwood

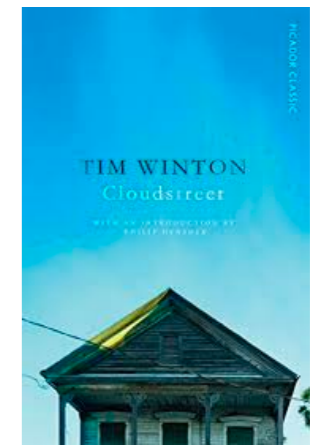
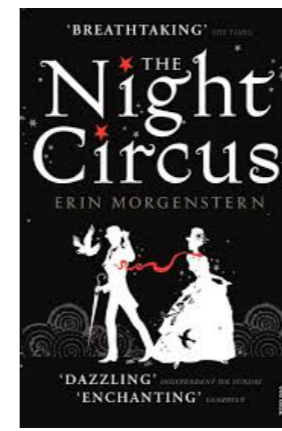


Miss McMahan says: I first discovered *The Count of Monte Cristo* when I read the abridged version as a child. I fell in love with the story of jealousy, revenge and reinvention. When I was older I read the full (or 'adult' version if you will) and realised that there was so much more to the text. It contains very modern themes for a story of its age and draws you in with many twists, turns and characters you truly root for. I have been fascinated by the link between politics and literature and I read *The Handmaid's Tale* as part of my A Level course. I finished it in one sitting and never looked back, sometimes we need something that makes us realise how vulnerable we are and to never take our freedoms for granted.

Mrs M Meagher

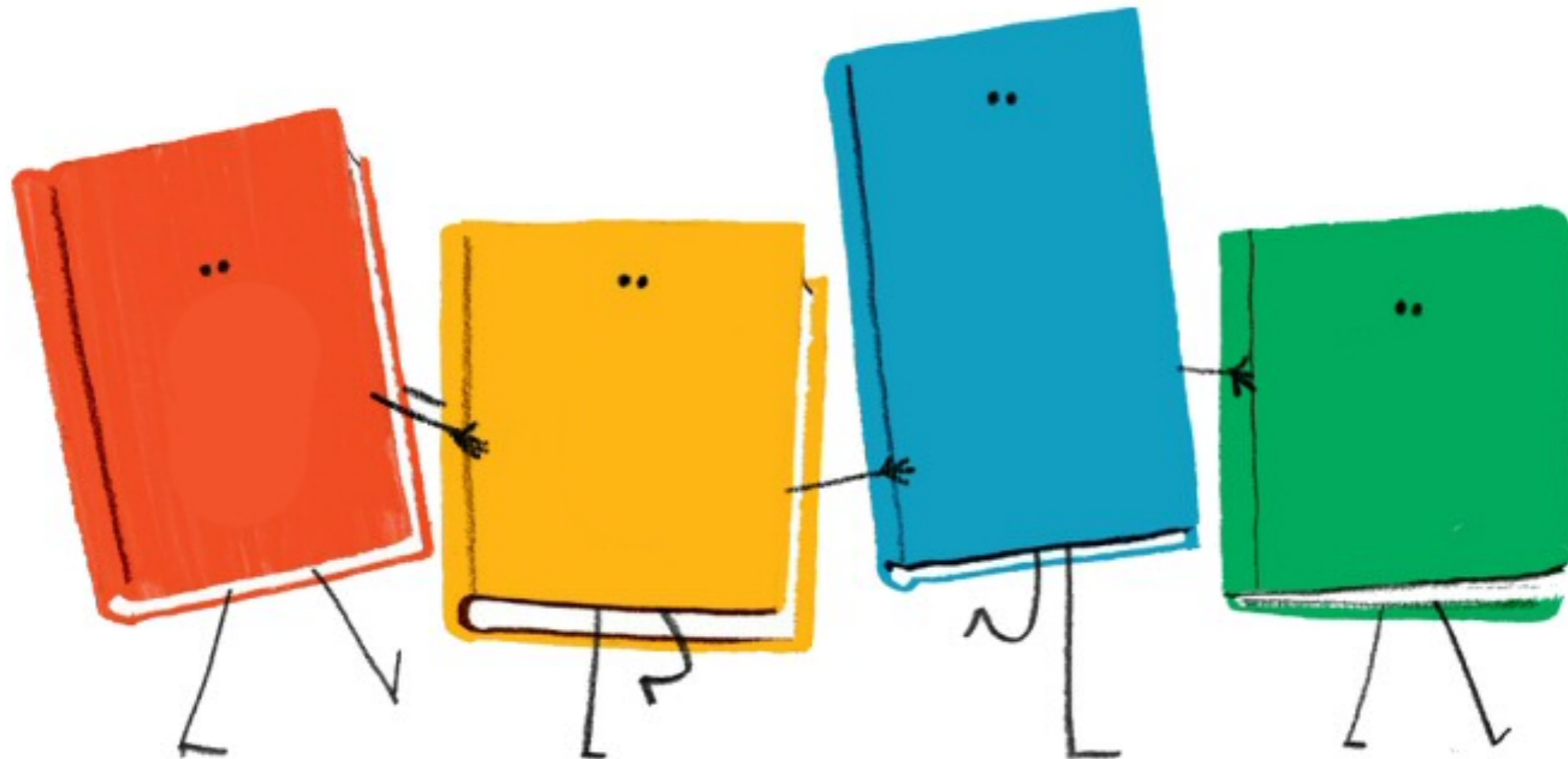
English Teacher

Favourite Book: *The Night Circus* - Erin Morgenstern



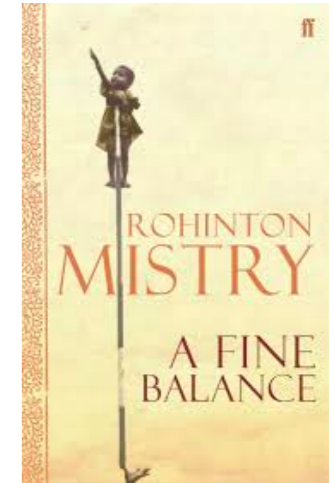
Book that had an impact on me: *Cloudstreet* - Tim Winton (This text is suitable for older or more mature readers)

Mrs M Meagher says: *The Night Circus* is a beautiful, intriguing story combining magic, fate and competition with the highest stakes. Reading this book you are pulled into a world that you end up hoping really exists. *Cloudstreet* tracks the life of a house on, well, Cloud Street. The generations that pass through the house change and alter the house itself. This Australian novel gives insight into the changing face of Australian society as well as acknowledging its ancient past. It is a confronting but comforting, all in one.



Ms E Morton

Favourite Book: *A Fine Balance* - Rohinton Mistry (This text is suitable for older or more mature readers)



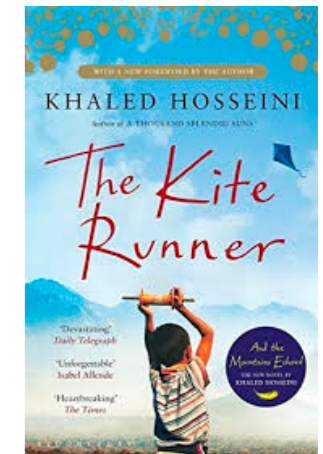
Book that had an impact on me: *The Secret History* - Donna Tartt

Ms Morton says: This book really compelling. The vivid writing brings to life the India of the '70's under Indira Gandhi; the human tragedies that spilled out from her State of Emergency are recounted in all their horror and yet with dry humour and biting satire. The everyday corruption and greed that characterises Indian life is also laid bare.

Miss Z Mullally

PE Teacher

Book that had an impact on me: *The Kite Runner* - Khaled Hosseini



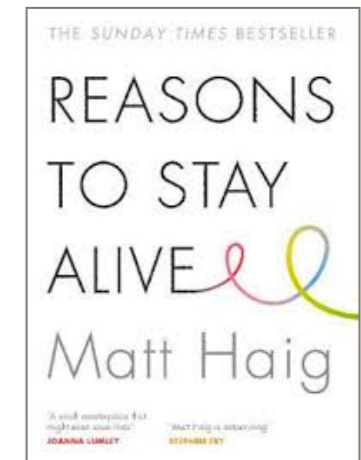
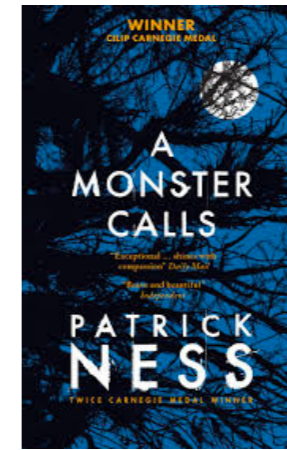
Miss Mullally says: I read this book during my English Literature A Level and it completely changed the way I thought about reading. I did not think I would like it until I couldn't put it down and read it within 2 days. The story was captivating and I loved analysing it - picking the story apart and reading it on a deeper level. Themes from guilt, friendship, forgiveness, loss, and desire for atonement. It was an incredible read and one the main reasons why I don not judge a book by it's cover anymore (cliche I know!).

Ms K O'Brien

Library Assistant

Favourite Book: *A Monster Calls* - Patrick Ness

Book that had an impact on me: *Reasons to Stay Alive* - Matt Haig



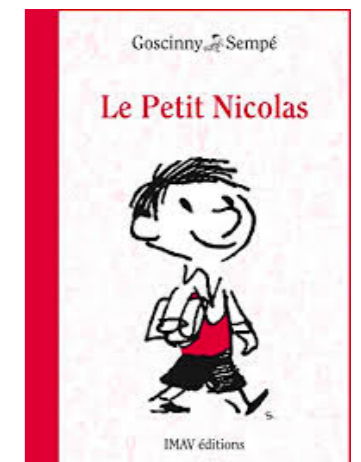
Ms O'Brien says: Each night Connor is visited by a monster, a dark and powerful presence. Each night there is a story, and the last story is the truth. A moving tale about a boy coming to terms with his mother's illness. I love the spin on traditional tales to reflect complex characters rather than just good vs evil. *Reasons to stay alive* is a profound book about Matt's struggle with depression. It's about living through the storm and learning to live again. It is a book I found really moving but also immensely hopeful, a celebration of life.

Mrs L Robinson

MFL Teacher

Favourite Book: *The Great Gatsby* - F Scott Fitzgerald

Book that had an impact on me: *Le Petit Nicolas* - Sempé & Goscinny



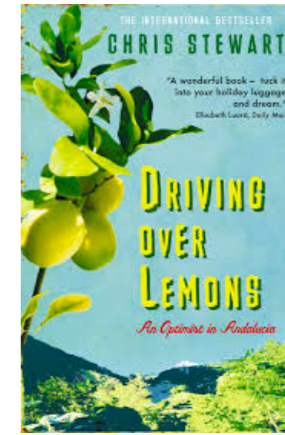
Mrs Robinson says: I love *The Great Gatsby*. It's just so beautifully written - like chocolate. It was the first book that really made me see that **how** something is written can be just as powerful as **what** is written about. I can still remember the quotes we learnt at school from it all these years later! *Le Petit Nicolas* was the first book I read in French. It's in slightly old-fashioned French from the 60s but it's from the point of view of a little boy so it's easyish to understand. Goscinny describes all the scapes he gets into. I love the way Nicolas tries to make sense of the world. Goscinny is famous for his comic writing - especially the original *Astérix* books. And I also love the original illustrations by Sempé. He can capture all sorts of craziness with just a few pen strokes!

Mr I Stowe

HR Manager

Favourite Book: *Driving over Lemons* - Chris Stewart

Book that had an impact on me: *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* - Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn



Mr Stowe says: *Driving over Lemons* isn't literally my favourite book. But it is a very enjoyable book with some favourite themes (adventuring is good for you; keep dreaming; choose to be happy if you can); anyway, favourites change over time - my favourites at my age now might not have appealed to me when I was still at school. My second book, *One Day*, is a book that had a profound affect on me when I was your age. It is very readable as well as being very important. It illustrates why we hope that our Roundwood Park Leavers want to change the world.

Ms K Sunderland

English Teacher

Favourite Book: *Rebecca* - Daphne Du Maurier

Book that had an impact on me: *How to Fail* - Elizabeth Day



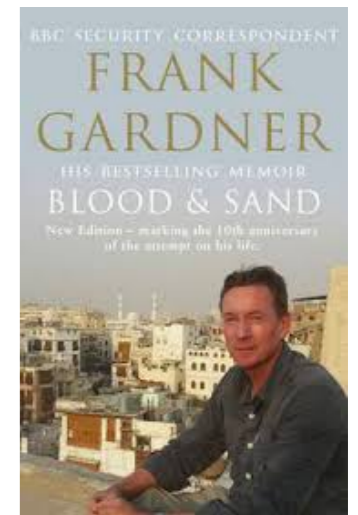
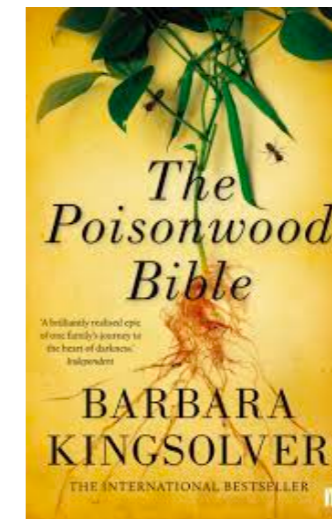
Mrs Sunderland says: I first read *Rebecca* on a camping holiday when I was about 14, lying half way out of the tent, racing through the last few pages in the rapidly fading light. The ending was so compelling I was captivated. It's a fabulous, gothic style novel with menacing characters all with secrets, hidden motives and flaws. There are twists and turns all the way and the setting of a huge house on the coast is always a perfect location for a thriller. 'How to Fail' has been my bible over the last few years; full of insight, reassurance, inspiration and humour it shows you that it's not the failure that matters, but how you respond and recover from that failure. 'Because learning to fail is actually learning how to succeed better.'

Mrs K Turberville

Science Teacher

Favourite Book: *The Poisonwood Bible* - Barbara Kingsolver

Book that had an impact on me: *Blood and Sand* - Frank Gardner



Mrs Turberville says: *The Poisonwood Bible* follows an American missionary and his family who go to The Congo in the 1950s. It is moving and challenges anyone who tries to persuade others to believe in their ideas. The family travelled out there thinking they would change the lives of the villagers. They have some terrible times and it is an insight into their own beliefs, the tribal beliefs of the locals and the way of rural communities.

Mrs J Upton

Head of History

Favourite Book: *The Belgariad* series - David Eddings

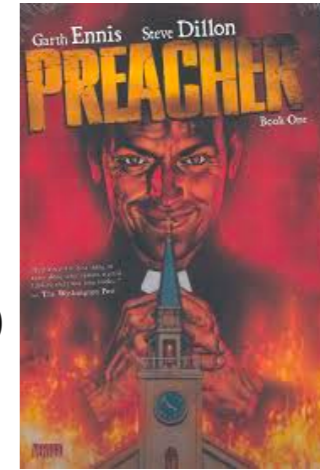


Mr W Whitmore

Science Teacher/Head of Year 10

Favourite Book: *Preacher* - Garth Ennis (This book is suitable for older or more mature readers)

Book that had an impact on me: *The Master and Margarita* - Mikhail Bulgakov



Mr Whitmore says: *Preacher* - it's a road book/graphic novel that essentially covers religion, relationships, friendship, love and betrayal but is also extremely violent and very funny. It involves an ex-criminal/now turned Texas preacher, Jesse Custer who along with his girlfriend Tulip and an Irish vampire called Cassidy, go in search of God who has abandoned Heaven. It has the best comedy villain ever in the form of Herr Starr, leader of a right-wing Catholic cult, much fun ensues. Garth Ennis is probably my favourite writer of all time. *The Master and Margarita* changed my view of Russian literature, which I thought was full of long-winded dull prose about uncles and cherry orchards. It's about the Devil coming to Moscow to host his annual ball, it is fun, anarchic and completely challenges the Soviet (and western) ideal not only at the time it was written but even today. There is a section that involves the meeting between Jesus and Ponticus Pilate which is a **brilliant short story in itself**.

