



PEN

POYNTON ENGLISH NEWS



SUMMER 2022 - CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION DETAILS INSIDE!

WHO'S BEEN MAKING HEADLINES IN ENGLISH?

A Platinum Jubilee Special by Isaac Rowbotham

EXCLUSIVE!

**WORDS
HAVE
POWER**

*PICS OF
SUPER
ENGLISH
WORK*

"Balm of hurt minds"-Ms Spencer prescribes recommended reads .

Editor's Note

We welcome you to our first Summer edition of PEN! It has been a long time coming; the team have been working hard behind the scenes to produce engaging and exciting content for you.

The purpose of this magazine is to showcase PHS students' work and celebrate writing talent. We hope you like it!

Our first edition includes competitions, book recommendations, opinion articles, creative writing, puzzles, and recipes - the list is endless!

The team consists of students from Years 7 to Year 12 - if you have a burning desire to pick up your pen and produce some exciting and thought-provoking content for our next issue, please bob along to our Wednesday get-togethers at 1.20 pm in Room 31. We would love to see you there!

I want to thank the team at PEN, who have worked tirelessly to put this edition together - you guys are **AMAZING!**

Enjoy reading! :)
Ms Spencer

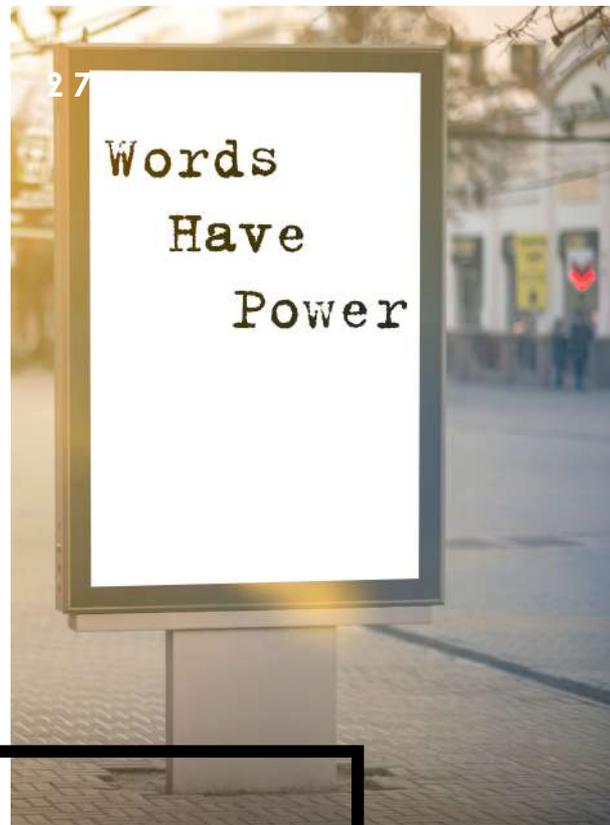
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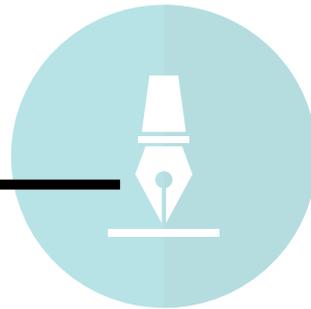
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THE POWER OF WORDS

BY ISAAC ROWBOTHAM

When first asked to write this piece, I was initially sceptical. I did not believe it could be possible to limit the entirety of every language and every piece of literature produced into a simple article. In my opinion, nobody could. No diploma, degree, or PhD could possibly attribute the knowledge acquired by nobody in particular for tens of thousands of years to a feeble, inconsequential mind. While I may not choose to discuss the impact of online shopping on the bookselling industry or why independent publishing cannot oppose the superiority of mainstream publishing or the definition of "agastopia", it is not impossible to mention the impact of literature on modern society. Or, to put it simply, the power of words.

Readers are, no doubt, consciously aware of children's author JK Rowling. It would be difficult to find somebody who has never read any of her books or watched any of the films her books made into. Her presence is monumental. Harry Potter books have sold more than 500 million copies and have been translated into around 76 languages worldwide. Although readers' love for her books globally is unquestionable, recent controversial speculation has emerged surrounding Rowling's comments on Trans women. She has stated that she is concerned for the welfare of women in public spaces, such as changing rooms and public bathrooms. As any ardent supporter of the Trans community would agree, her comments have upset and enraged hundreds of thousands of supporters. Including me. Although her statements are not legally criminal, many have been upset by her views and have felt a lack of support from the woman who forged their childhoods. Then, it would seem that the world of Harry Potter and the author who created it are two entirely separate entities, as the recent 20th-anniversary documentary inclines. It is sad to see a woman who rebuilt her life after an abusive marriage and extreme poverty crucify herself and use her high-status platform and social media presence to relay such controversial and, in my opinion, irrelevant views.

Culture cannot possibly progress if those with a gargantuan presence in literature and society are choosing to upset people for what they wrongly believe for the sake of welfare. Criminality and moral basis do not go hand in hand - this is the opinion rational readers and supporters of the Trans community have most in common. The power of words has destroyed her career, and while she is still a billionaire, morality must be called into question: is fame really the key to happiness?

Words having power could be taken in a more literal sense. Bookselling comes to mind when I think of "Words Have Power". If you think about it, the entirety of the bookselling industry - popular shops such as Waterstones, Blackwell's, The Works, and WHSmith - depends entirely on British taxpayers neglecting their free local libraries. As lovely as it is to collect books, we are all guilty of failing to exercise our right as taxpayers by visiting public libraries. If every single book buyer were to switch their loyalties to their local library, businesses would collapse, affecting our economy.

Other examples of words having power can be found in the media. Moving away from traditional literature, we must look to television and social media for further context. There is plenty of stigma surrounding social media and creators obsessed with materialising the "perfect life"; most find these fake representations suffocating and claustrophobic. Though an ardent user of Instagram, YouTube, TikTok, and Twitter, I could not care less about gaining followers and having a major media presence. It is not on my agenda. I have other things to do. Well done, however, if you are successful. Just be careful. Many allow themselves to be ensnared in the trap of toxic media. Pictures are edited; they are not raw. The idealisation of perfection does not exist - do not let yourself think otherwise. The creators' words should not impact your mental health; social media does not work that way. The same applies to the news. If you think about Princess Diana, Margaret Campbell, Dmitri Shostakovich, and John Profumo, they all have one thing in common: the media and the words of journalists destroyed their lives.

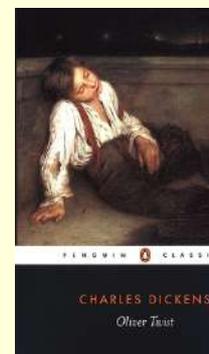
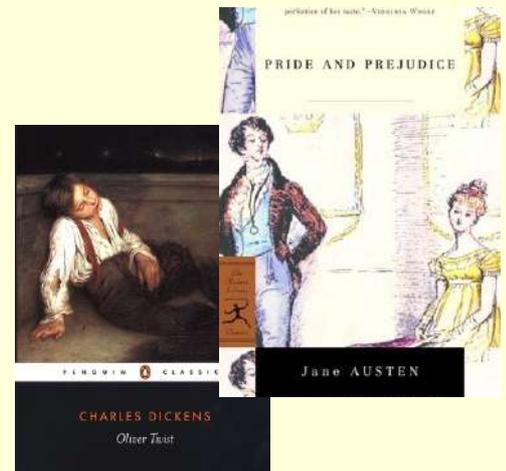
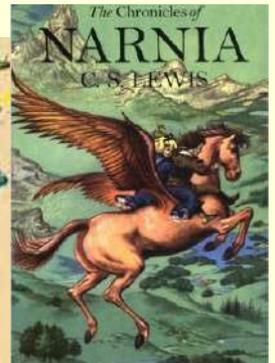
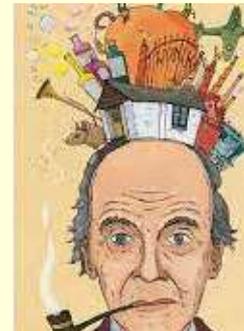
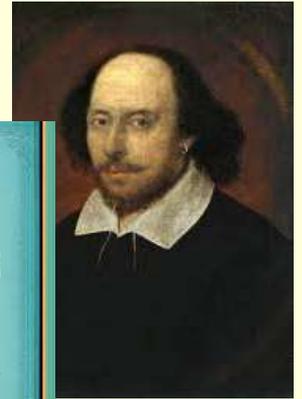
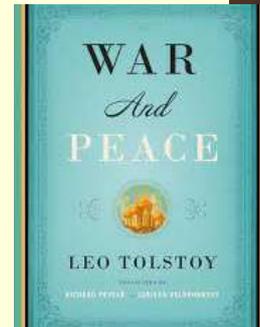
THE POWER OF WORDS

History, too, is the most accessible source to salvage context from. There is no end to scripture, books, articles, plays, speeches and films to express how powerful words can be. As Shakespeare wrote in his play *Twelfth Night*: "Let there be gall enough in thy ink; though thou write with a goose-pen, no matter." We can read masses of books over our lifetime, and plenty of them will be bad. I have no time for poorly written books. If they do not rise to my standards in literature, then I give up on them. Life is far too short to be wasted by reading bad books. Fortunately, I am observant and typically find books I will like.

Modern readers can relish the easiness of series such as *Diary Of A Wimpy Kid*, *Harry Potter*, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, the works of Roald Dahl, David Walliams and Jacqueline Wilson. If you enjoy reading, you should not be afraid to embrace broader horizons. Do not attempt *War And Peace* after enjoying a reread of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. Gradual progress is fundamental in building up maturity in reading. After that, you can appreciate epic stories like *Lord Of The Rings*.

Once a reader can appropriately grasp the language, they can read anything. I read plenty of books and do not understand a word, but the best novels are the ones - I have found - where the message is clear. *Pride and Prejudice* is not about Mr Darcy and Elizabeth Bennet but about family and friendship. *Vanity Fair* is not about wealth and fortune but about society and class machinations. *Oliver Twist* is not about children who misbehave but poverty and overcoming struggle. Words can have consequential power attainable not by wasting time but by making the most of it. You might not enjoy reading. To be honest, I would understand. You probably do not know for sure: do not be afraid of trying. You should allow yourself to be adventurous, spontaneous and unconventional with this sort of thing.

This is all my opinion, of course. If reading is not for you, it is not. It is as simple as that. Take this article's message: words have power, and you could benefit immeasurably from it. With television, newspapers, social media, the stress of exams and the responsibilities of friendship, life can generally become intoxicating. That is fine. You just need to learn how to alleviate yourself. As I have found, that can be attained by reading a good book.



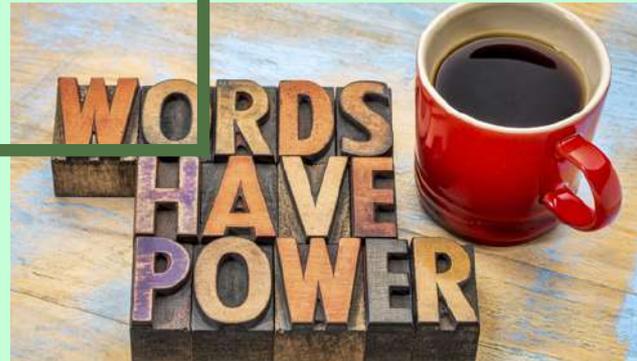
A RIVETING RESPONSE TO THE POWER OF WORDS...

Words by Miss A Warrington

When asked to write a response to the insightful article on the power of words by Isaac Rowbotham, I debated in which direction this piece should be taken. Should I echo Rowbotham's well-executed argument that reading broadens your horizons and through reading more complex literature, you develop your 'maturity in reading'? Or should I highlight the significance of local libraries and the joy which can be gained from borrowing a book, seeing the creased pages where another book lover has been transported to another world? I have decided to focus on the power of words for us all as individuals.

What can words do for you?

According to Susie Dent, well-known as the lexicographer in "Dictionary Corner" on Countdown, an average adult English speaker uses 20,000 words. This compares to the estimated 171,000 words currently in use in the English language, not forgetting the additional estimated 47,000 words which have become obsolete, plus any dialectal neologisms (new words) which are added to the English language on a daily basis. New words are added to the dictionary several times across the year; most recently, in December 2021: 'lateral flow', 'comfort eating' and 'hybrid'. But did you know that if you don't know the typical 20,000 words, it is argued that you are at a disadvantage in society? Therefore, knowing words and using them is crucial in achieving your dreams and ambitions. Words help you get a job; argue your opinion, and chat with friends and family, to list a few.



So how do you increase the words you know?

The most recent craze: Wordle, where you try and guess the hidden word in 6 attempts, is an easy way to increase your vocabulary and have fun whilst doing it! Not forgetting the old-fashioned word searches, crosswords, or scrabble! Or read about the 'Term for the Term' on the next page!

WORDLE

A DAILY WORD GAME

TERM OF THE TERM

In each edition of the magazine, a new word with its definition, etymology (its origins and how its meaning has changed) and synonyms will be included within our half-termly magazine.

How many times can you use the term of the term?

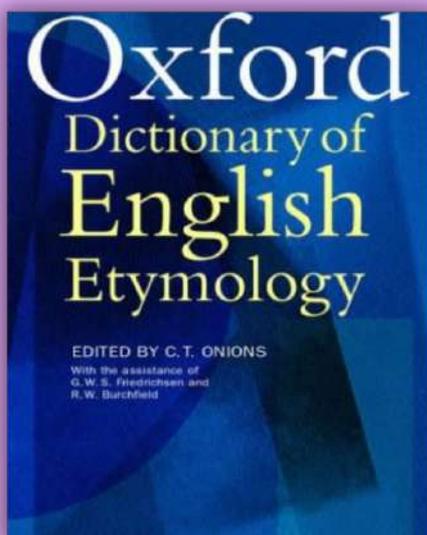
Term: magnanimous

Word class: adjective

Definition: generous or forgiving, especially towards a rival or less powerful person

In a sentence: She should be magnanimous in victory.

Etymology: It Began in the mid-16th Century. Latin – ‘magnus’ meaning great + ‘animus’ meaning soul. Originally meant nobly brave or valiant and changed its meaning to generous or forgiving.



YOU CANNOT GIVE ANYTHING TO A
MAGNANIMOUS PERSON. AFTER YOU HAVE
SERVED HIM, HE AT ONCE PUTS YOU IN
DEBT BY HIS MAGNANIMITY.

- RALPH WALDO EMERSON -

LIB

*etymology is the key that
unlocks both knowledge
and a love of language*



Reading: A Balm For Hurt Minds



Believe it or not, reading books can help you feel better about yourself.

Whether it is a fiction or non-fiction book, you can learn so much about the world we live in from reading. Research suggests readers have greater emotional intelligence and empathy, meaning they can better put themselves in someone else's shoes.

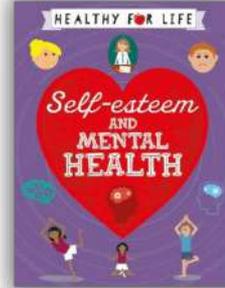
As part of our positive push to promote a happier and healthier school community, we would like to prescribe some books recommended by the 'Reading Well' initiative, a scheme which supports 13 -18 year-olds dealing with mental health issues. These books may better help you understand yourself, your peers, and your family members.

Hopefully, our recommended reads will give you the confidence and courage that you are not alone in whatever you're feeling.

Books on the list include: Mark Haddon's *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky, and Juno Dawson's *Mind Your Head*.

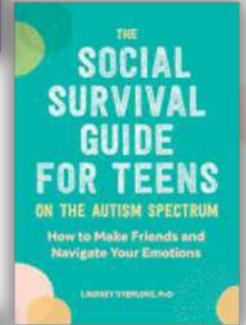
All of the books are freely available in British libraries and include a range of fiction, self-help, memoir, and graphic novel titles.

Find a friend in a book; It is not too late; just take a look!



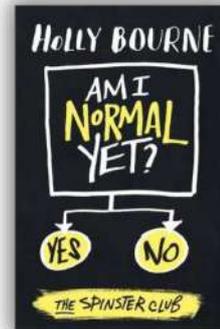
Healthy for Life: Self-esteem and Mental Health

By Anna Claybourne



The Social Survival Guide for Teens on the Autism Spectrum: How to Make Friends and Navigate Your Emotions

By Lindsey Sterling

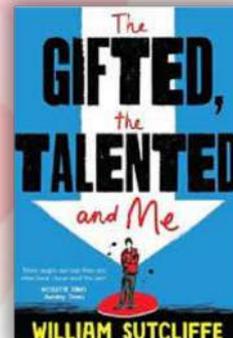
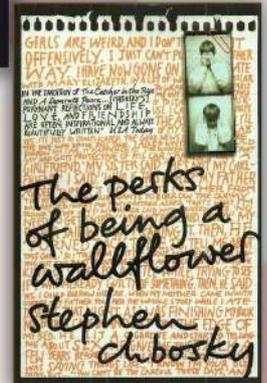


Am I Normal Yet?

By Holly Bourne

(Unsuitable for younger readers)

"The Perks of Being a Wallflower is a deeply affecting coming-of-age story that will spirit you back to those wild and poignant roller-coaster days known as growing up. Now a major motion picture starring Emma Watson and Logan Lerman."

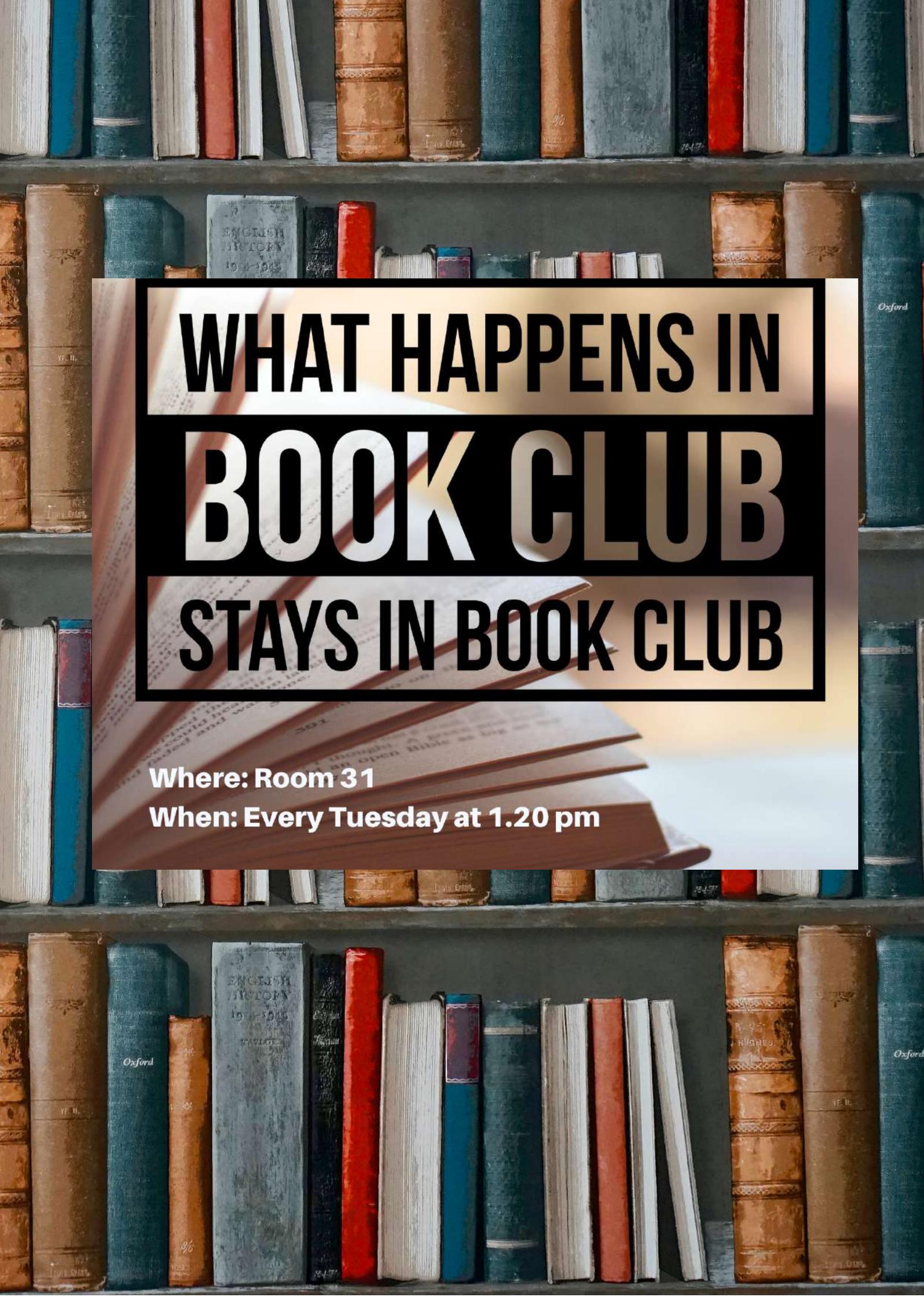


The Gifted, the Talented and Me - by William Sutcliffe

"Awesome Adrian Mole-esque ingeniousness for post-millennial teens!"



Speak with Ms Spencer if you would like to recommend a feel-happy book.

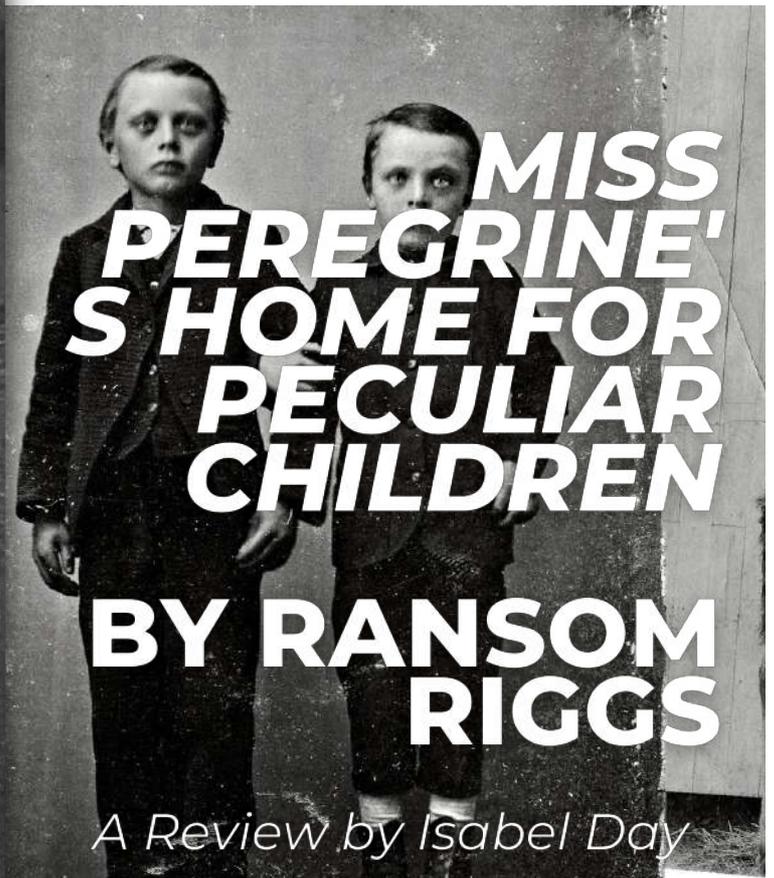
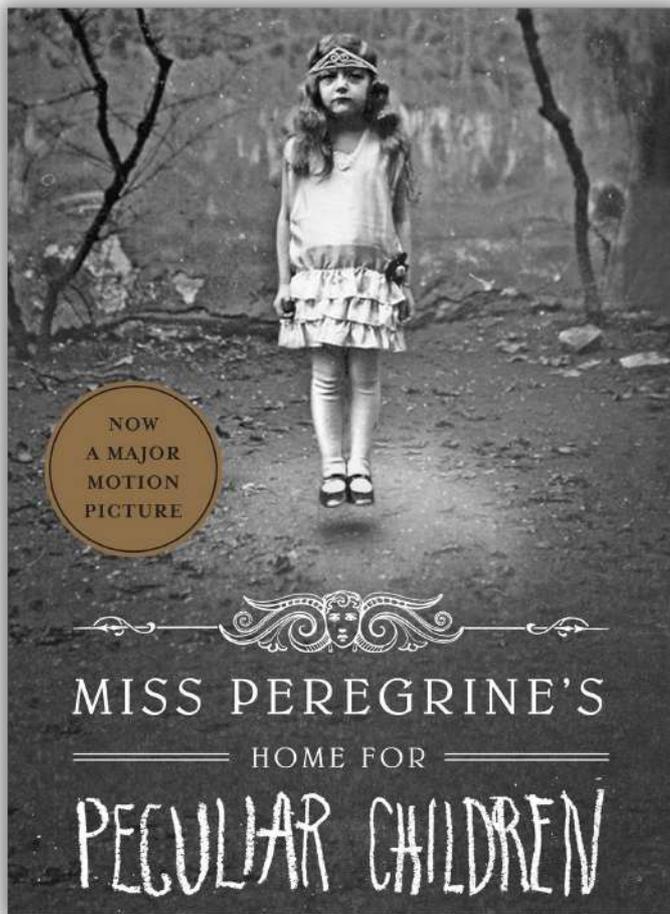


WHAT HAPPENS IN BOOK CLUB STAYS IN BOOK CLUB

Where: Room 31

When: Every Tuesday at 1.20 pm

BOOK REVIEW



"A mysterious island. An abandoned orphanage. And a strange collection of very curious photographs. It all waits to be discovered in Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children, an unforgettable novel that mixes fiction and photography in a thrilling reading experience."

Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children tells the story of Jacob and his quest to find the truth. After his grandfather's mysterious death, Jacob and his father go on holiday to an island with the permission of Jacob's new therapist. Jacob sneaks and explores the island. When he finds a hidden mansion in the middle of a marsh, he begins to wonder whether his grandfather's monster stories were true after all. Then he finds some photos of very peculiar children in the mansion's basement and follows a mysterious girl into another time, discovering that the world he thought he knew is not as simple and safe as he thought. And there are monsters out there. Monsters that will not stop until they get what they want...

"I used to dream about escaping my ordinary life, but my life was never ordinary. I had simply failed to notice how extraordinary it was."

— Ransom Riggs, *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*

My Favourite Character

My favourite character is Emma Bloom. She is mature and resilient, as well as being kind and considerate. She plays a big part in the story, helping Jacob through his adventures. She guides him through his emotional journey, and together they unpick the mysteries of his past. Emma is one of the peculiar children: she can make fire spring from her hands and lives in a time loop under Miss Peregrine's care.

Key Themes and Morals

This book is about relationships, truth and journeys. Jacob's relationships with his father and the peculiar children, especially Emma, change throughout the novel as he begins to understand the world around him and his own feelings, as well as other people's. He starts on a journey to discover the truth, but when he begins digging deeper into his grandfather's past, he finds more questions, which soon leads him into real danger.

why you might like this book?

Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children is exciting and gripping. It is believable enough that you can imagine all the characters as real people, and it contains monsters and time loops to give it an extra level. The book includes photos, which add to the story and help you picture all the peculiar people and understand Jacob's feelings. The story explores powerful emotions, including grief and love.



READING CHALLENGE

Directions: Read 3 books that fit the prompts. Complete boxes in a row, column, or diagonal.

Post your completed Reading Challenge in the Post Box in the library to win a prize!



READ A BOOK BY
AN AUTHOR
YOU'VE NEVER
READ BEFORE

READ A GRAPHIC
NOVEL

READ A BOOK
THAT HAS BEEN
TURNED INTO A
MOVIE

READ A BOOK
RECOMMENDED
BY A FRIEND OR
TEACHER

FREE SPACE

READ A BOOK
FROM A GENRE
YOU'VE NEVER
READ BEFORE

READ A
NONFICTION
BOOK

READ A LIBRARY
BOOK

READ A BOOK IN
A SERIES



Author Interview By Eliza Rowland

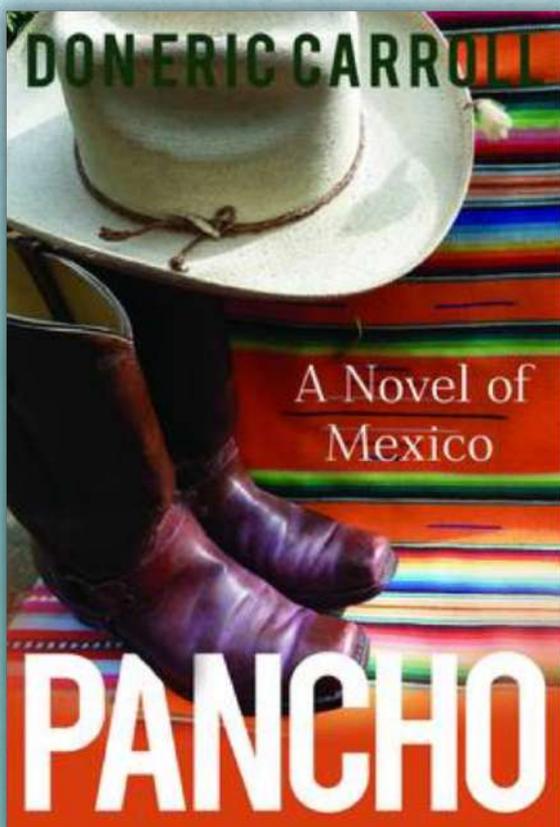
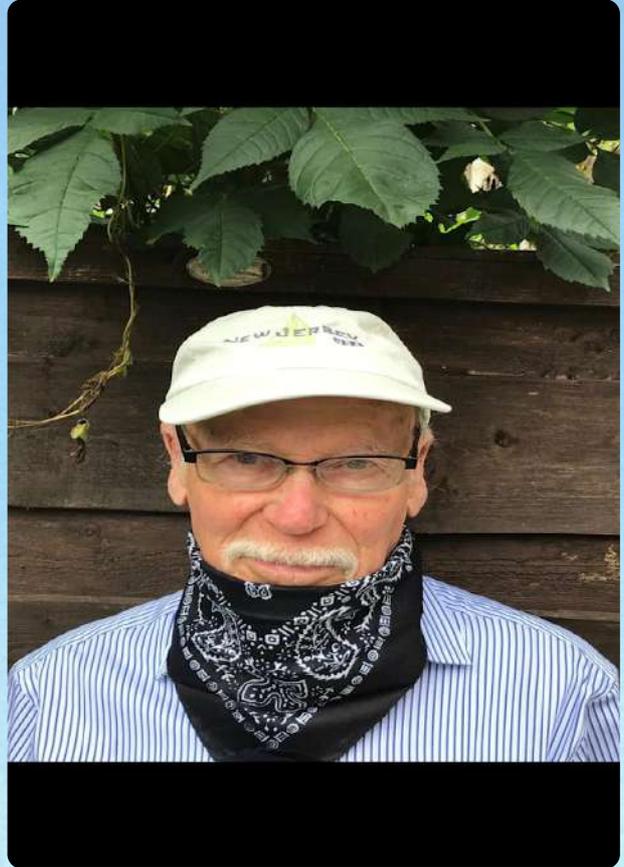
Don Eric Carroll

Eliza Rowland had the absolute pleasure of meeting Don Eric Carroll, the author of *Pancho*. A novel described as: '**crammed with incident, humour and high adventure; Pancho is set in 1950s Mexico; the coming of age for a boy and for an old man the enjoyment of his autumn in life.**'

Don Eric Carroll has lived a fascinating life, proving he can turn his hand to anything from painting murals; to working as a bartender and teaching English. In his later years, he volunteered as a VSO in Egypt and then worked as a live-in chef at a retirement home in Devon.

A successful writer who won the American Society of Writers Award for his second book, Don Eric Carroll is now retired and living in the North.

Here, Eliza asks what it takes to write successfully for children.



What would you say are the top ten things you need to know before writing a children's book?

You must like and understand children.

It helps to be a mother or father of a child.

It helps to have siblings: I have two younger brothers and sisters.

Possessing skill in poetry writing.

Being young in mind yourself- a vastly important factor!

Knowing intuitively what amuses or interests children.

Having a topic or plot that immediately grabs a child's attention.

*Know the age group one is aiming at.
Please read all the children's classics as I did!*

Have a young friend of school age who acts like a reader and critic.

A TWISTED FUTURE

A Horror Story

*By Aniya Robinson-
Peruga*

Luminously, the golden, gleaming sun peered through a tenuous gap between my silk curtains and reached her endless welcoming arms of glinting glittery light that cradled my room in warmth. A fluorescent fragrance hung off everything. I felt a soft, warm touch on my neck, rubbing my tired eyes; I began to yawn grotesquely; I tossed and turned in my immense bed sheets, trying to effortlessly fall back to sleep, comforted and concealed in my covers. I tried to relax, but I was pricked by the shimmering, burning light, like the unexpected sharp jab of the green needle as you handle a crimson rose whilst breathing in its beauty.

A faint irritating noise drifted through my bedroom. Fatigued, I forced my eyes open and strained to listen. Mournful whispers infused the air. I tumbled clumsily out of bed and stumbled over to my water-stained window, where the noise was coming from. I drew the translucent curtains and peered out to examine my surroundings. A dark monolith of a figure stood tall, leaning, darkening my house in a blanket of shadow. He was dressed in a coal-black hooded cloak, a milky white mask - that wore a lament expression- veiled his face. In disbelief, I rubbed my eyes with sweaty palms and stared wide-eyed to find that he was gone. Bewildered about what had just happened, I brushed it off and shuffled over to my desk - which displayed a flimsy sheet of paper that read 'What do you think your future will be like?'. Deflated, I drowsily sunk into my cushioned chair and picked up my pencil to puncture my paper with words.

A hushed creek of the front door reverberated through the dense walls.

"Mum....Dad?!" I yelled.

The silence shattered the windows. I raced down the stairs, waiting for a warming hug from mum and a grizzly squeeze from dad, but to my surprise, they lay on the hazel-nut floor; eyes wide open; their veins bold black. A spec of scarlet blood appeared on their hands. A gushing stream of crimson spilt down from their fingertips, drowning them in blood. High pitched screams ripped through the walls. He was here. I stormed over to my battered door and slammed it shut; knocking over my minuscule shelf, and my tacky books littered the ground. I slumped into a ball in a numbing, grotty corner of my bedroom; squeezing my hands securely on my ears, I choked violently on my muffled sobs. My door opened. Knowing I was his next target, I screamed, "WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?!".

Filthy, his grubby, wrinkled fingers clasped my mouth, then thrust me to the compact gelid floor. Hastily, I ran into my bathroom and locked the door; I spun around, and he stood there; his mask - smeared in black gummed goo - lay on the tiled floor. Eerie, the same gluey goo, clung to the steamy mirror and read, 'You can't escape your future!'. My eyes were fixed on his face; no eyes, no eyebrows, no nose, no mouth, no ears. A pestiferous ringing noise crept into my ears like a spider with its thin sharp legs prodding its way through a pitch black pipe. Darkness consumed me.

Fearful, my eyes shot open, looking up at the sooty sky; thick grey clouds swirled around a singular milky white cloud-like bloodthirsty sharks besieging their puny prey. Wintery, the freezing floor numbed my back as I lay uncomfortably on the cobbled inky road. Awkwardly, I got up and scanned my surroundings. Sly, the brisk breeze was a snake; it slithered along the twisting road, constricting vulnerable souls and squeezing the light and happiness out of them. I ran. Dingy, the streets narrowed. Woeful houses looked identical.

I didn't stop running.

Ultimately, I reached the end of the road, and an endless pit of darkness sat in front of me. Audaciously, I jumped off the cliff; I couldn't breathe; the world fell quiet. I woke up in a mouldy bathtub; the water felt warm; I closed my eyes and relaxed. Something brushed over my leg; I cautiously opened one eye, ruby liquid replaced the turquoise water, crow feathers and heads floated in the bath. Vexatious, a tapping noise came from the window; a flock of hostile crows pounded their beaks on the filthy window as their black beady eyes stared into my spirit. In fear, I clambered bunglingly out of the sickening bath and snatched an outdated towel.

I sat down at a mucky mirror; a piercing pain clawed its way into my head; tears trickled down my cheeks. Lamentably, I peered up at the mirror; but my reflection was wrong. The mirror displayed an old woman with wrinkles on every inch of her body and grey curls that spilt down and rested on her shoulder. Suddenly, I realised I had been transported somehow into a future gone wrong. Giggling echoed around the room; I turned to look behind me and saw that the doll - that perched precariously on the darkened shelf- had vanished.

WOW!



Year 7 students were asked to brainstorm a story idea inspired by their library space and work collaboratively writing the story and creating a blurb and book cover.

Abiga'il Wölffsohn created a fabulous and slightly unnerving book cover for her story: 'You Only Live Twice.' We have included the book cover and a snippet of the story for you to enjoy.

If you enjoy writing riveting stories and producing brilliant book covers, please see Ms Spencer in Room 31.

You Only Live Twice -

By Abigail Wolffsohn

Chapter One

Sea Water

Ughh, I hate Tuesdays because we always have double chemistry with Mr Whitehall. Not that I don't like chemistry, it's the fact I sit to Kayla Thomas. Kayla is such a- , annoying girl. Catherine and I are sure she was abducted by aliens and had her brain replaced for a shrivelled-up pea. This morning, Mr Whitehall is banging on about some sort of measurement. He says,

"Adding acid and what makes salt and water? Kayla?"

"Base," she replied in a sickly-sweet tone.

Of course, Kayla got it right. Annoyingly she's mean and smart. I stopped listening at that point and continued with the worksheet. There were twenty questions, yet time flew by so quickly and before I knew it the bell had rung. Everyone left for break, and I went straight to the library, of course. I wanted to finish studying for the maths test that was coming up in a few days' time.

I went straight to the back table and sat down, I got out my book and pencil case, and began writing.

Chapter Two

Wireless Charging

The static of the radio echoed around the cold room. The walls were painted bright yellow and had strips of pink flowers that had slowly faded in parts; complementing the musty mell that arose from the ancient rug. Brown furniture was dotted around the place, along with various black and white photos of people Rebecca had never met, let alone seen before. A great commotion boomed across the night sky, houses were lit up in oranges and reds. She needed to get out of there; she needed to run. Run far, far away. Far enough where she would not be involved in this. She ran to the door and grabbed the handle. Just as she flung it open, a girl, a few years younger than her, came down the stairs. Her blond hair was in two plaits resting on her pigtails, a small beaten-up rabbit clutched in her arm. The longer Rebecca stood there, the more she realised. The girl was the only person left in this house. It was late, but not late enough that her parents should be home. There was no one there to tell her it was okay, no one to keep her safe from the

bombing, no this was it. Without thinking, Becca grabbed the girl, radio, and all she could find in the pantry and ran. It got darker and darker, but that didn't matter. Eventually, they reached a river. The things Becca had been holding for so long, fell to the floor. The girl collapsed and fell asleep instantly. Rebecca gently laid the bag she had used to carry the food and her jumper over the sleeping child, whoever she was, she was safe here, for now anyway. Becca neatly laid out the items she had collected, amongst all the items was the wireless, an old radio used in the 1900s. She looked for a charger or plug in of sort but found nothing. It still worked and as she listened more, the chance of them surviving the night was getting slimmer.

Chapter Three

Catherine Parker

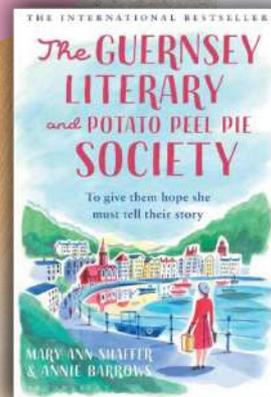
Catherine is my best friend. We always have lessons together, but most of the time sit at opposite sides of the classroom. Not in art though. We sit at the back together in art. Miss Taylor is always really nice and lets us sit wherever we want as long as we finish the work. She is always getting us to 'paint from the imagination' and 'touch with our own reality' whatever that means. Today she told us to

"Draw what your favourite drink would look like as a person. Make sure to include lots of detail," Miss Taylor said, calmly.

I let my ears switch off and started sketching. I drew oranges and yellows, flowers and radios, and a girl, sleeping peacefully under a green hoodie. I could remember this scene. I don't know why, but for some reason I felt like I'd been her before. I must've dreamt it. That's never happened, right? ...

LITERATURE FOOD FANTASIES

By Miss Warrington



Potato Peel Pie Recipe

For the Crust

- 1 large onion grated
- 1 large potato (thin-skinned) grated
- 1 medium beet grated
- 1 clove garlic minced
- 2 large egg whites
- 3 tbsp. flour



For the filling

- 6 medium potatoes with the skins on cut into cubes
- 1 clove garlic
- 230ml milk
- 120ml cream
- 2 strips of bacon diced and cooked
- 2 tbsp. chives finely chopped
- 60 grams of grated cheese

Prepare the Crust

Grease a pie plate.
Preheat your oven to 180°.
Mix the ingredients for the crust in a large bowl and then spoon most of it into the prepared pie plate, keeping approx. 60 grams separate for the finish. Press against the bottom and sides, so you have an even crust. Bake in the oven for one hour or until the crust is firm and crispy. Let it cool.

Make the Filling

Scrub the potatoes well. Cut into cubes with the peel on. Put the potatoes and garlic clove in water and boil until tender.
Drain the water.
Heat the milk and add to the hot potatoes. Mash well. Stir in cream, cooked bacon and chives.
Spoon the filling into the prepared crust. Use the remaining crust ingredients to make a lattice design and fill the gaps with the cheese.
Bake in the oven at 180° for 30 minutes.
Cool slightly and cut into slices and serve

Send us a photo of your potato peel pie; we'll print it in our next edition!

Lots of books include different delectable dishes and tantalising triumphs for our tastebuds. So, in every edition we will recommend a book that has a food or dish within it, AND it will be accompanied by a recipe for you to try!

This term's book is *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer.

What's the novel about?

It is a historical novel set in 1946 when a writer begins exchanging letters with residents on the island of Guernsey. The book is an epistolary novel, which means it is a series of letters from one character to another. The book is set during World War II when Germany occupied Guernsey. After learning about the Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society on the island, the main character, Juliet, visits the island and begins to experience what it is like to live during the German occupation.

Easy Banana Pancakes

Serves 1-2 ⌚ Prep time 7-10 mins Cooking time 3 mins

You can multiply this recipe.

An easy, quick and simple recipe to make your morning start of happy and good.



Ingredients

1 banana- roughly
chopped

1 scoop of protein
powder (optional)

1 egg

25g of rolled oats

1tbsp Greek yogurt

Fresh fruit to serve

Method

Whizz up the banana, protein powder, egg and oats in a blender to make your batter.

2. Pour little puddles of batter into the pan – I usually get 3 pancakes, with about half the batter in the pan at once.
3. Cook for about 1 minute on each side.
4. Remove and repeat the process with the rest of the batter.
5. Serve with a dollop of yoghurt and a few berries.

Healthy recipes

By Abigail Wolffsohn

THINGS YOU CAN DO TO SUPPORT YOUR MENTAL HEALTH

SELF-CARE IS ABOUT THE THINGS WE CAN DO TO LOOK AFTER OUR OWN MENTAL HEALTH

→ Sleep



Sleep research suggests that a teenager needs between eight and 10 hours of sleep every night.

Are you staying up late watching TV, gaming, or staring at your phone or tablet screen? If so, you may alter your sleep patterns leading you to stay awake into the night and feel sleepy during the day. A lack of sleep will interfere with your school work and home life, causing you unwanted stress.

Have some screen-free wind-down time (reading an actual book is ideal) before going to bed at a reasonable time each night.

→ Eat well and exercise



Eating nutritious food and doing moderate amounts of activity can prevent mental health problems. Ensure you eat three healthy meals daily, including at least one portion of fruit or vegetables with each meal.

To enhance your mood, combine a good diet with regular activity. Exercising releases feel-good chemicals in the brain. Physical activity will send dopamine through your body, making those difficult days more bearable. Taking that activity outside will further enhance your mood because the sunlight, which is full of vitamin D, is a natural antidepressant.

→ Mindfulness



Mindfulness means paying full attention to something. It means taking your time to really notice what you're doing. Research indicates that when teens consistently practice mindfulness, it lowers rates of anxiety and depression and leads to better sleep, stronger relationships, and increased self awareness.

Breathing exercises, detoxing from electronic devices and writing a diary are just some of the ways you can practice mindfulness. And remember: stress is a given, but being stressed-out is optional.

Welfare Leaders at PHS:

Year 7: Mr A Hunter
Years 8 & 9: Mrs Riley
Year 10 & 11: Miss J Aspinall



Helping others and being kind not only contributes to the happiness of others, but it can also allow us to feel happier ourselves!

Our school community thrives on positive relationships. It is not only the job of the adults to promote a happy and healthy ethos; you too have a responsibility to look out for one another to ensure our school environment is the best it can be.

You might be wondering what you can do to help? Well, smiling goes a long way! Saying 'Hi' to people you don't usually talk to; seeing someone sitting alone and going over and asking if they're OK are just some of the simple things you can do - and it doesn't take much effort, does it?

Research suggests that helping others improves our mental health and wellbeing. For example, it can reduce stress and improve mood, self-esteem and happiness. Why not give yourself a few simple 'happy goals', things you can do to make your life and the lives of others more pleasant?

Never fear, Mrs Riley is here!

If you didn't already know, at Poynton High School, there are many adults at hand to support you if you or a friend are struggling and need help. Mrs Riley, Student Welfare Leader for Years 7 and 8, is one of those adults who can support your wellbeing.

Jessica Lawson, a Year 7 student, was fortunate enough to ask her a few questions about what her job entails and what made her want to be a Welfare Leader. Read her interview below.

What do you do daily in your job as a Student Welfare Leader?

Check attendance, speak to parents about their concerns for their children and support/help the students in school.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

No day is the same, and I get to support the students.

What is the most challenging part of your job?

Fitting everything into the day!

What made you want to become a welfare leader?

I previously worked as a school receptionist and supported students there, so I felt that I would be really suited for the job.

What is the best way to deal with a stressful situation?

Stop, take a deep breath or two, take a step back and try to see things in a better light. If not, ask for help.

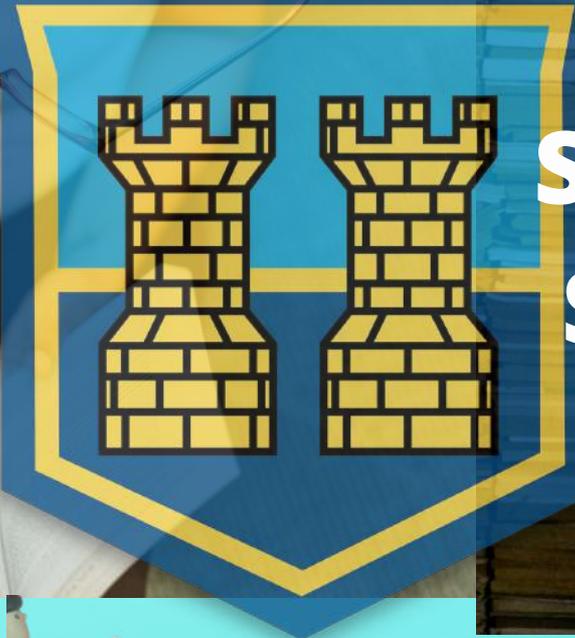


WELFARE AT PHS



How to be a Successful English Student at PHS...

By Jess Lawson



Being a successful student in English can open so many options in the future.

The first important step is bringing the right equipment; you should always be prepared for the lesson as this can further impact your learning.

The necessities you will need for every lesson are a pen, pencil, ruler and rubber- spares of the previous items would come in handy too. Also, other things to include to excel in your work and effort are highlighters and pencil crayons that make your work look appealing to people and persuade them to read it.

Furthermore, an enjoyable book to read at the start of every lesson means you can engage your brain with the power of words and the emotion and thoughts they are capable of bringing to your mind.

Alongside this, the right mindset is key. A good English student knows how to succeed in their lessons.; this means working hard, participating in class discussions by giving your opinion, and learning from your mistakes like all the best writers have done and will continue to do.

Completing enough work per lesson is also essential as it demonstrates your knowledge, ability and understanding.

Overall, to succeed - and more importantly, excel in your English lessons, you should be able to accomplish the following:

- **Bring the correct equipment to school;**
 - **Have a book to read that you enjoy;**
 - **Work hard and complete enough work in lessons;**
 - **Participate in class discussions;**
 - **Learn from your mistakes.**
- 

THIS WEEK'S ENGLISH TIPS AND TRICKS

THERE VS THEIR VS THEY'RE

THERE = REFERS TO A PLACE.
THEIR = POSSESSIVE PRONOUN.
THEY'RE = "THEY ARE."

If you're not sure, ask your teacher!

39 Literary Methods for Bright Sparks

01	Consonance	Repeating several words that start with the same consonant.	"My mother made me move the mattress."
02	Assonance	Repeating several words that start with the same vowel.	"Angry and alone, Ann acted out."
03	Euphemism	Finding a nicer way to describe something.	"Your feet smell less than sweet."
04	Flashback	Referring to something that happened in the past usually in the form of an explanatory passage that is a single sentence.	"Luisa remembered meeting this man when she was just a toddler."
05	Foreshadowing	Referring to something that will happen in the future.	"David had no idea that the message he was about to read completely change the course."
06	Hyperbole	Exaggerating to the point of jest.	"She had two satellite dishes for ears."
07	Onomatopoeia	Making a word out of a sound.	"Whoosh!"
08	Oxymoron	Connecting words that contradict one another.	"Benevolent government."
09	First person	Telling a story from the point of view of "I" and "we."	"I entered the cave knowing I might never exit alive."
10	Second person	Telling a story from the point of view of "you."	"You enter the cave, knowing you might never exit alive."
11	Third person	Telling a story from the point of view of he, she, or they.	"She entered the cave knowing she might never exit alive."
12	Allusion	Referring to something outside the scope of the current story or situation.	The movie "The Mechanist" alludes several times both to rock band Nine Inch Nails and to classic author Dostoevsky.
13	Anachronism	Including words or references that don't make sense with the timing of a story.	"The Civil War general halted the battle to answer his mobile phone."
14	Anaphora	Repeating a word or phrase at the beginning of a clause or sentence.	"Consider yourself at home. Consider yourself one of the family."—Lyrics to "Consider Yourself" from the musical "Olivier"
15	Anastrophe	Changing the normal word order of English.	"Every the Eighth I am, I am!"—Lyrics to "Ya Henery the Eighth, I am" by the band Herman's Hermits
16	Aphorism	Writing a short, smart, catchy statement.	"Time heals all wounds."—Popular saying
17	Asyndeton	Leaving out a conjunction where one would normally be used.	"I came, I saw, I conquered."—Julius Caesar
18	Chiasmus	Reversing a phrase.	"I work to live, not live to work."—Popular saying
19	Cliffhanger	Ending a chapter, story, or other piece of writing by leaving the reader dying to know what happens next.	"This concludes the meeting. Next week, we'll talk about the \$5,000 because I'll be going to half of you."
20	Colloquialism	Using informal expressions of everyday people.	"Karl Marthia had cancer in her baby-gitter so they took it out."
21	Cumulative sentence	Building up a sentence by adding phrases and independent clauses.	"He stumbled through the forest, limped, shivered, miles from home, wondering why he'd left home in the first place."
22	Epistrophe	Repeating a word or phrase at the end of a clause or sentence.	"And he rode with a unveiled torse, / His protuberant orbicle, / His nose tall a beak, under the jeweled sky."—Lines from the poem "The Highwayman" by Alfred Noyes
23	Hypophora	Answering a question right after posing it.	"Should we retreat? I think not."
24	Imagery	Using highly descriptive language to paint a picture.	"The hot sun blazed in the azure sky, radiating warmth and energy to all who lay on the white beach."
25	Isocolon	Using phrases of equal length together.	"I came, I saw, I conquered."—Julius Caesar (Yep, a repeat)
26	Juxtaposition	Making a strong contrast.	"Jack Grant could not let his wife could not let."—Nursery rhyme
27	Litotes	Making a point by stating it in the negative.	"We are not amused."—Attributed to Queen Victoria
28	Malapropism	Mistakenly using one word in place of another word that sounds similar.	"We apologize for the incoherence instead of 'inconvenience'."
29	Metaphor	Making a comparison without the use of the word "like" or "as" (contrast with SIMILE).	"His heart is a stone."
30	Metonymy	Using a closely related word or phrase to represent a related thing (contrast with SYNECDOCHE).	"Only a seasoned pilot could've flown that piece of tin through the raging storm."
31	Paradox	Creating a statement from two contradictory ideas.	"It is only in the face of death that man's self is born."—St. Augustine
32	Personification	Bestowing human qualities on an animal or inanimate object (contrast with ZOO MORPHISM).	"The cat smiled knowingly."
33	Polysyndeton	Using many conjunctions where one would normally be used.	"He was tired and sore and hungry and utterly depressed."
34	Repetition	Emphasizing a point by using a word or phrase many times.	"Clang, clang, clang went the trolley."—Lyrics to "The Trolley Song" by Hugh Martin and Ralph Blane
35	Simile	Making a comparison with the use of the word "like" or "as" (contrast with METAPHOR).	"Her hair was like steel wool: coarse and wild."
36	Synecdoche	Using a part to represent a whole (contrast with METONYMY).	"Brandon spent \$50,000 on a new set of wheels."
37	Tautology	Saying the same thing in two different ways (often by mistake).	"Your comments are redundant and superfluous."
38	Tmesis	Inserting a word in the middle of another word.	"It's un-breaking-likely that fit many that boor."
39	Zoomorphism	Bestowing animal qualities on a human being (contrast with PERSONIFICATION).	"She purred whenever her truck entered the room."

Literary methods are techniques writers use to indicate themes, ideas, and meanings in a piece of writing. Here, you will find 39 methods, some of which are very ambitious, to improve your analysis of the texts you will study in English. You will attempt to identify these methods when reading a text, but we hope you will also try to apply them in your own writing.

Cut out and use this fantastic bookmark to help improve your knowledge and understanding of literary methods.

ENGLISH
SUPERSTARS!

Cause For Applause!

KS3 ENGLISH AWARDS

WOW

Isaac Rowbotham

"This English award goes to a student who, simply put, all round brilliant. They are top class, an avid reader and talented writer. Well done, Isaac!"



Madison Holt

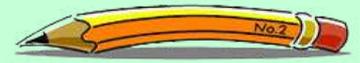
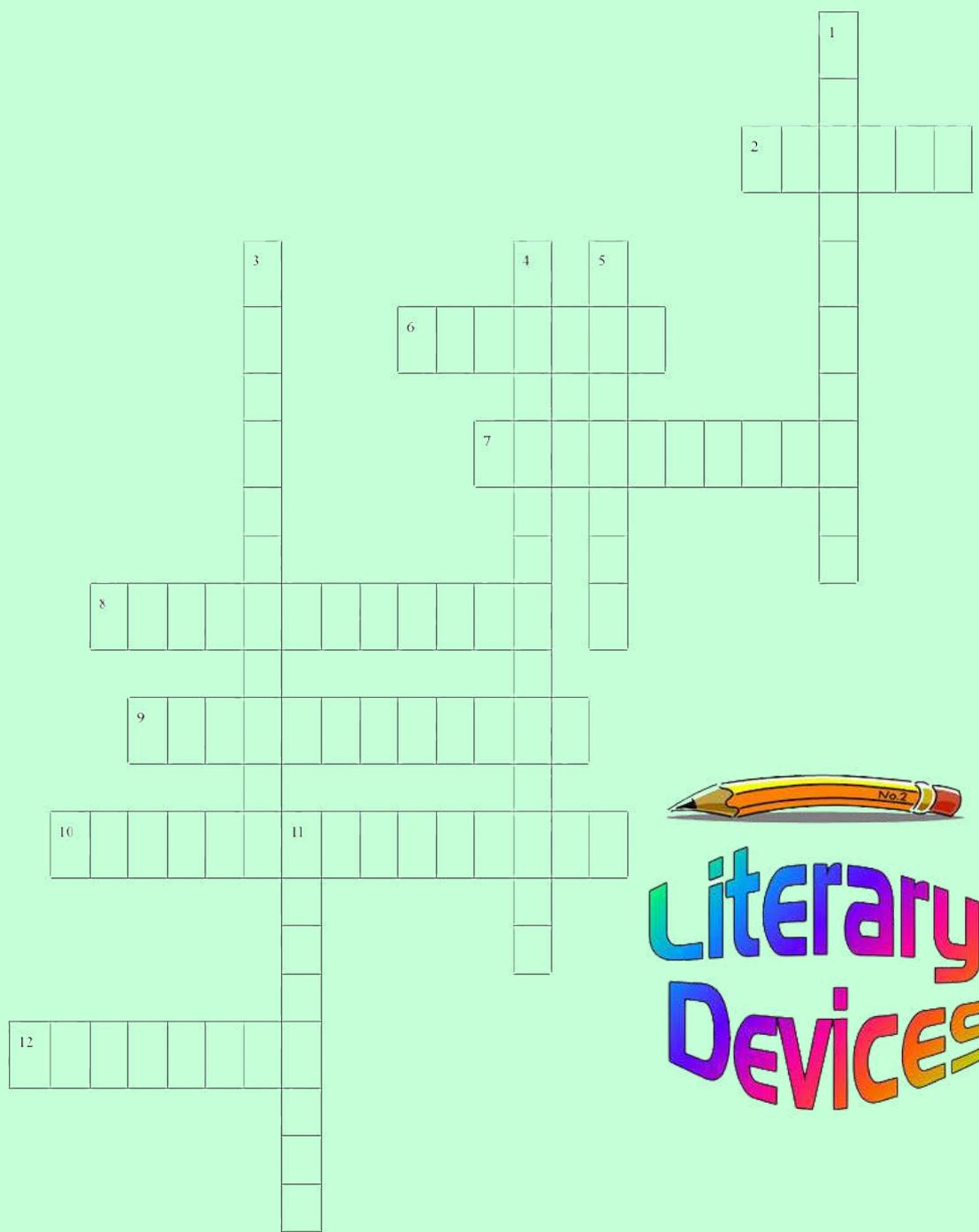
"Madison has been amazing in English. She works with such positivity and creativity and is always engaged and upbeat. The quality of her work is outstanding! Congratulations!"

Jack Rose

"Jack has been a pleasure to teach for the last two years. He works extremely hard in lessons and volunteers amazing answers during class feedback. He always arrives at lessons early when he can, and I've enjoyed conversations about good books and what he enjoys in lessons or around the school. Thank you for being such a wonderful student!"

WELL DONE

CROSSWORD



Literary DEVICES

Across

2. when two things are compared using the words "as" or "like"
6. the opposite meaning of a word
7. the literal or obvious meaning which is clearly stated in a book/text
8. words which sound like their description
9. words which have the same sound at the start of each word
10. giving something which isn't human a human-like quality
12. words/imagery which states two things ARE the same (similar to, but stronger than a simile)

Down

1. words with the same sound but different meaning
3. the emotional association or hidden meaning which isn't always stated in a book/text
4. when hints are given about what's to come further into the book/text
5. words which have the same meaning.
11. when something isn't stated obviously, but implied (being a detective - looking for clues)

MEDIA STUDIES INTERVIEW

An interview with Ms Coultas by
Ellie Nadin

Our Sixth Form has an established reputation and consistently achieves excellent A-level results. One of the many exciting subjects you can study at A-level is Media Studies.

What's A Level Media Studies about?

Media Studies is a vast and eclectic subject area which includes studying media disciplines ranging from hundreds of years ago to the ultra-contemporary sub-sectors. A level Media Studies introduces you to many different media and encourages theoretical considerations across all platforms studied. Audience reception, representation, regulation and ownership and gender theory are just some theories you will learn about.

A level Media Studies allows students to question the validity of the information they receive daily and be aware of bias within the media. By the end of the two years, students should have an even better understanding of our world.

A Level Media Studies will prepare students for a range of careers in fields such as Public Relations, Journalism, Advertising, TV Production and Events Management. Students can also progress to study Media in various forms at degree level, focusing on either theory, practice or both.

An Interview with Mrs Coultas:



Why did you choose to become a Media Studies teacher?

"I trained to teach English but had the opportunity to teach media early in my career. I really enjoyed the relevance to young people."

What is your favourite topic in Media Studies and why?

"I love teaching Media Language/semiotics. I was surprised how many hidden codes and signs are used to position an audience."

If you could go into a Media studies job, what would it be?

"Film or TV Editor or a Scriptwriter."

What is your favourite part of your job?

"Learning new things about the media from students and helping the students create media productions."

Do you think students should study Media Studies as a subject in lower school?

"Definitely, media literacy is becoming more and more important for young people."

What do you think the best thing about Media studies is?

"It is always 100% relevant to the world we live in; it changes all the time as the media develops. It is creative as well as challenging."

WHAT IT TAKES TO MAKE IT IN THE FILM INDUSTRY



An interview with Karen Milligan by Eliza Rowland

The film content company Millk is a Manchester-based team of award-winning filmmakers who pride themselves in 'producing memorable film content'.

Karen Milligan, the company's Founder and Managing Director, talks to Eliza Rowland about her passion for film, upcoming exciting projects and what it takes to make it in a competitive industry.

What made you want to work in the industry?

I had always been fascinated by TV production, and at the age of 7, I made a Blue Peter set using matchboxes as the cameras; never knowing one day, I would be filming on the actual set! I'd always wanted to work in the media. My careers advisor at school told me it was unlikely, which made me more determined! It's the best choice I made; it's not just a job; it's my hobby and passion.

What was your biggest challenge?

The biggest challenge is that it's a very competitive industry. It takes a lot of hard work and perseverance to move up and get opportunities. I was very determined!

Are you lucky enough to travel as a TV Producer and Director?

I've been very lucky in my career already and have had some amazing experiences filming worldwide. I've been to the Oscars, shot travel documentaries in the Caribbean, and met so many amazing people. In the future, I'm looking to get some of my latest films on Netflix and grow my production company Millk.

Can you share the highlights of your career?

There's been a lot of highlights. A recent one was filmed at Buckingham Palace to produce a live broadcast for the Rugby League World Cup -it was seen by 60 million people worldwide, and I got to have a nice chat with Prince Harry!

Can you spill any industry secrets?

Ooh, yes, there are lots of secrets! We have visual effects artists who can turn night into day. We have makeup artists who do the most amazing transformations and editors that create magic in the way that cuts a story, and you wouldn't believe what PVA glue can do when you're filming a food TV commercial!

What are you working on at the moment?

At the moment, I'm working on a very special documentary script - I've written about Alan Turing and why he is still so important to us today. We are filming at Bletchley Park, where he worked as a codebreaker, and we're planning a very exciting event at Manchester Pride this summer to celebrate him.

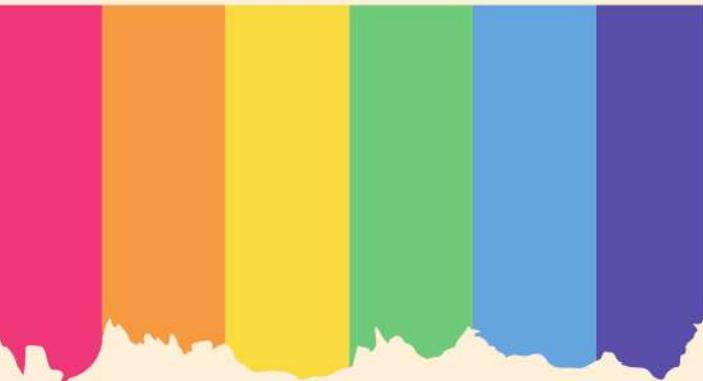
What advice would you give to somebody wanting a career in the media?

Ask questions! If you have the opportunity to work in the media, ask questions, learn about the team you're working with and their type of work and be so helpful they'll invite you back.



KAREN MILLIGAN





PRIDE

Why is Pride month important to you?

"IT'S A REFLECTION OF THE STRUGGLE LGBTQ+ HAVE TO GO THROUGH SOMETIMES"

"So we can be who we are"

"To have pride in yourself and others and express yourself freely"

Why do we have Pride month?

"We have it to remind ourselves and others that we are valid humans and liking a specific gender or being a specific gender is okay"

"To bring the community together in spaces that feel safe so we can celebrate ourselves"

"So LGBTQ+ people can feel represented"

What are your ideas to stop discrimination?

"START EDUCATING FROM YOUNGER AGES"

"Encourage parents to raise their children to learn about the LGBTQ+ community and talk about it openly. But not just LGBTQ+ also Black lives matter too."



- **LGBTQ+ book recommendations:**



- ***Heartstopper- Alice Oseman***
- ***Felix ever after- Kacen Callender***
- ***What if it's us- Adam Silvera and Becky Albertali***
- ***Leah on the off beat- Becky Albertali***
- ***The art of being normal- Lisa Williamson***
- ***Carry on- Rainbow Rowell***
- ***The Outrage - William Hussey***
- ***Drama- Raina Telgemeier***

By Eliza Rowland



AN INTERVIEW WITH MR HOYLE

BY ELLIE NADAN

Mr Hoyle is an English teacher and the Director of Teaching, Learning and Research at PHS.



Why did you choose to work at PHS?

I really wanted to have the opportunity to teach a full range of students.

I liked the idea of being able to play a part in helping Year 7 students take their first steps in secondary school education but also be involved with Year 13 students and support them as their subject knowledge becomes more and more specialized.

What topic is your favourite?

One topic? That's too hard. If I say so myself, I tell a good ghost story linked to Gothic literature. I've got an interesting lesson based around some 16th century paintings, honestly. And I do a lesson about 'a poem that will change your life' in Year 12 that seems to go quite well. That said, I'm sure I enjoy all of these far, far more than the students do.

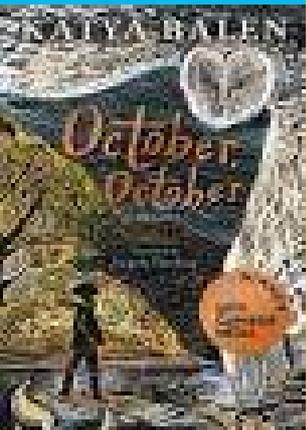
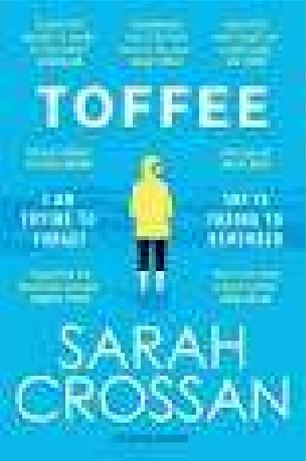
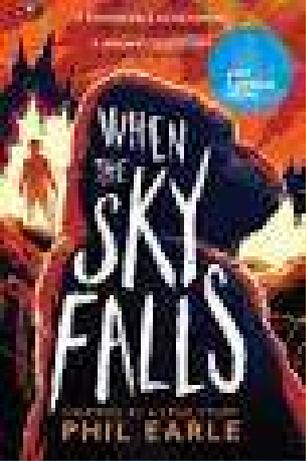
What is your favourite part of your job?

No surprises here: teaching lessons. In particular: students offering ideas in lessons that I've never thought about; students enjoying building their confidence with skills; students telling me 'Thanks Sir, that lesson went really quickly'.

Describe yourself in one word?

'Interested'. Or 'bald'. Both are accurate.





If you couldn't teach English which subject would you teach?

I'd like to teach Art – I'd like to have a much better knowledge of art history, artists, artistic periods – but my interest in all this theory would be undermined by my complete lack of practical skills. I have the worst drawing accuracy in my family home and two of my competitors are only 5 years old. I do a mean bit of colouring-in though.

If you weren't a teacher what would you do?

Phone up all my friends who are teachers whilst they were trying to do their marking and be annoyingly smug.

What book would you recommend a sixth former to read?

I'd recommend a sixth former to read a book that Mr Sheehan recommended to them when they had a conversation with him. So, I'm really recommending reading books that someone has put in your hand because they're passionate about books and they just think that it is a book that you will enjoy.

Mr Sheehan has been brilliant at putting books in my hand in the last year that I've enjoyed reading, those stories that have you turning over 'just a few more pages' because the tale is so good you have to find out what happens next:

'When the Sky Falls', Phil Earle; *'Toffee'* Sarah Crossan; *'October October'* Katya Balen; *'Pike'*, Anthony McGowan; *'Sirens'* Joseph Knox; *'Lean on Pete'* Willy Vlautin.



70 WOEFUL AND WONDERFULLY GLORIOUS YEARS



BY ISAAC ROWBOTHAM

2022 is a year for celebration but also for reflection. It is a time to think about the Russian invasion of Ukraine - seeing the bullying and mass murder of innocent civilians daily in the media makes us assiduous and sympathetic. While I condone those who care enough to inform themselves on world politics, it can also be exceptionally draining for our mental health. It is so sad that, of course, I have to concede, but at the same time, we need to put ourselves first when thinking about positivity and optimism.

This year is the **Platinum Jubilee** year. Unless you currently reside in a cave or beneath a large rock, you will know that 2022 makes seventy years since the Queen ascended to the throne. We can scarcely believe how different life was in 1952 since we were not alive then.

When Her Majesty was crowned Queen, severe rationing was still in place, as well as crippling shortages damaging the global economic structure. Grief was still fresh for families who had lost loved ones during the Second World War, and veterans struggled to find jobs in a very different Britain since they left. The British Empire was a thing of the past, with social unrest and unconquerable political tensions in major colonies dissolving the largest empire in history to form what we now know as the Commonwealth.

Britain then was incomparable to Britain now. Back then, women were still expected to be homemakers - staying at home to cook, clean, and care about local social standards. Women wore hats everywhere - to the doctors, church, and shops. Whilst I appreciate a pleasant hat, it must have been so tiring to conform to these strict social laws every day. Meanwhile, men took gruelling jobs which paid drastically little. Winston Churchill was still Prime Minister and Queen Mary - the Queen's paternal grandmother - was still alive.

The abdication of Edward VIII in 1936 had placed the young Princess Elizabeth in an impossible situation. It is difficult for us to believe, but bearing such a responsibility cancelled all the privileges and probably left the young Princess feeling very bitter and disappointed that she would not lead an everyday, peaceful life.

Attitudes were different then, though, and nobody had time to worry about their mental health. The ancient, intoxicating proverb to just

carry on transported Britain through the war and into the 1950s.

Since 1952, of course, the world has changed. Women have equal opportunities in terms of jobs and social status, and men do not have to feel the pressure of supporting an entire family by themselves. Computers have been invented, along with phones, tablets, space rockets, advanced televisions, and Netflix... the list seems endless.

Nevertheless, one thing has never changed. After 14 Primes Ministers, several scandalous royal divorces, numerous economic downfalls, a pandemic, the Cold War, and conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan, and now Europe, one entity is still so constant and has never wavered in seventy years. She is the idealisation of elegance, grace, and impeccable manners - not to mention an unrivalled taste in exquisite fashion: our Queen. Her Majesty has been the only person to maintain the same office and moral authority all these years.

This is not, however, a biography of a monarch. It is an article about literature. So, of course, that is what I intend to mention. At the dawn of the 1950s, *Lord of the Rings* was not yet published - this would come in 1954. There was *Charlotte's Web*, *Lolita*, *Lord Of The Flies*, *Casino Royale*, *Fahrenheit 451*, *The Old Man And The Sea*, and *The Chronicles of Narnia*.

Then came the '60s. The 'Swinging Sixties', as it has since become known, was a bright, vibrant decade. Rationing was gone. Hitler was a figure of the distant past, and The Beatles formed. If the Fifties were in black and white, the Sixties burst into colour - one of the most tumultuous, subversive and revolutionary decades of the 20th century. It was the decade of the pill, Black Power, the Stonewall riots, Vietnam, and Flower Power, beehive hairdos. It was the decade The Beatles got bigger than Jesus. JFK was tragically killed, segregation was abolished, civil rights were introduced in the USA, and Neil Armstrong was the first person to set foot on the moon. Significant advances in literature were undoubtedly influenced by new social reformations replacing ancient traditionalist societies throughout Western culture. *To Kill A Mockingbird*, *The Prime Of Miss Jean Brodie*, *The Bell Jar*, and *Charlie And The Chocolate factory* launched into bookshops across the globe.



Then there were the 70s. ABBA crashed into music culture, taking the pop world by storm. It was a decade of over-the-top fashion, environmentalism and female empowerment, with the famous Equal Rights Amendment. The economic and political decline in Britain devastated the working classes. There was the significant devaluation of the pound, the abolition of free milk in schools, Bloody Sunday, the Sex Pistols were formed, the famous British steel strikes, Margaret Thatcher became Prime Minister and the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977. It was a glorious decade, but with some very aggravating tragedies. Agatha Christie passed away in 1975; her last public appearance was at the 1974 premiere of *Murder On The Orient Express*, where Albert Finney claimed the role of Poirot for the first and last time. This article includes an excellent photograph of Dame Agatha meeting the Queen for you to enjoy.

The 80s saw no change of Prime Minister in Britain, with the most controversial leader in UK history - Margaret Thatcher - leading cabinet and government for a record-breaking eleven and a half years. There was the Falklands War, the wedding of Prince Andrew to Sarah Ferguson, Prince Charles to Princess Diana, the Aids epidemic, the invention of computers and Windows growing to prominence, and the creation of the World Wide Web.

Throughout this amazingly fascinating history, the Queen remained ever-present: stable, calm, and serenely composed - the perfect model of strength and stability.

The 1990s was the decade when *Harry Potter* burst into bookshops like a rocket launching into space, but it was also the decade when Princess Diana died in a horrendous car crash. 1992 was what the Queen described as her "Annus Horribilis" ("Horrible Year"). With three of her children divorcing, the tabloids turned against the Royal Family in favour of the much-celebrated Princess Diana; it must have been heartbreaking. On top of this, a colossal fire ripped through Windsor Castle, costing £67.7 million to repair.

The 2000s saw 9/11 in 2001, the war in Iraq, and an economic crash in 2008. The 2010s heralded a new era for civilisation, beginning with the momentous wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton and ending with the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Literature is the stapled entity of an ever-changing world in which we are forced to live. Books, scripture, song, and poetry all mark the swift passing of time like an antique clock. We still continue to read, learn, and criticise writing pieces that would divide public opinion. Diversity in race, ethnicity, and religion has restricted the authority of the Pope, the Church of England, and the Bible, with citizens forming new ideas about living their best lives.

Her Majesty is the most powerful person in Britain, perhaps even in the whole world. The House of Commons proposes new laws in Parliament, and the House of Lords approves them, but the Queen always has the final say. She legalised the right to identify as being of any sexual orientation. Upon her coronation, it was illegal to be gay, lesbian, or bisexual, and the idea of being trans or non-binary had barely been conceived. However, since then, our society has become more equal - more worthy of the authority Britain holds on the world stage.

Whilst new books are released, new technology is invented, and global warming becomes a severe threat to our existence, the Queen has always remained constant as time shuffles on. It is a shame that she cannot reign for another undisputedly glorious seventy years in peace, dignity, and decorum. Send her victorious, Happy and glorious. Long to reign over us: God save the Queen.





Put Your Pride Aside; Shop Charity Shops!



Charity Shops. From Barnados, Oxfam, and Scope, to name just a few, you can be sure to bag a brilliant bargain or perhaps a priceless preloved treasure waiting to find a new home.

But it's not always been plain sailing for me when it comes to shopping in charity shops.

As a teenager, I was forced to follow my mum into almost every charity shop on our high street as she rummaged wildly through rails of clothes and shelves of books. Initially, I found the whole experience incredibly embarrassing; I would constantly look over my shoulder to see if any of my mates from school had witnessed me tiptoeing over the threshold of the worthless world of second-hand goods.

Deep down, beneath the layers of Collection 2000 foundation (it was all the rage back then, in the late 90s), I eventually came to the surprising conclusion: I liked charity shops; however, in my awkward teenage years, I was too proud and too stubborn to admit it, even to myself.

Once inside the charity shop, a cavern of possibility, I, too, would comb through the eclectic bookshelves in the hope of discovering a riveting read. I would always find a study guide I needed for school, a novel or two I felt compelled to read, or ANOTHER dictionary or thesaurus for as little as 20p!

You see, back then, we didn't have the internet at our fingertips; we couldn't just 'Google' the definitions of words; we had to practise the skill of scanning when finding the meaning of words. A dictionary and a thesaurus are invaluable tools to improve your literacy skills - and I had lots of them, thanks to the charity shops!

You might well laugh, but I would go so far as to say that without charity shops, I might not be where I am today.

Despite feeling embarrassed in my teenage years, I now view going to the charity shop as an exciting day out; I never know what I'm going to find, and that's the thrill!

Over the years, I've bagged an abundance of books, designer goods and toys for my children. I can honestly say I've saved thousands!

Most importantly, when you shop in charity shops, you support their activities and further their charitable work. One of the most notable charities is Oxfam, a charitable organisation focusing on alleviating global poverty, so when you buy from Oxfam, you are effectively helping to end worldwide deprivation. Now, doesn't that make you feel good?

The second-hand taboo is lifting - charity shops are no longer places to shy away from; they're the perfect place to find vintage and designer items at affordable prices. There's little difference in buying used clothing online from eBay, Depop and Vinted!

Don't let your pride prevent you from stepping into a charity shop - I say put your pride aside and feel proud you are supporting our environment by making sustainable fashion choices whilst giving to worthwhile causes.

Happy shopping!

"You might well laugh, but I would go so far as to say that without charity shops, I might not be where I am today."

Ms Spencer



Summer 2022 Creative Writing Competition!



SUMMER

Do you love creative writing?

Competition: Write a short story set in the North of England.

- Make sure it's clear that your story is based somewhere in the North of England.
- The setting should be an important part of your story.
- The person you write about can be imaginary, real, from the past, or it could even be you!
- You can write fact, fiction, or a mixture of both.
- The maximum word count for Key Stage 3 is 1000 words, and for Key Stage 4 & 5 it is 1,500 words.
- Hand your competition entry to your English teacher in your first English lesson.

We will choose one winner in each Key Stage. Winners will receive a prize, and their stories will be published in our next edition.



The winners will be encouraged to enter the Portico Sadie Massey Awards 2023.

THE WORLD

is already hurting. A war
will only add to the pain.

Do what you can to help

Support peace.



Donate anything, anything can help;
first aid items; old toys; food that last
long, etc.