

DM Magazine



Issue 1: November-December 2020



The Library Refresh Issue

**Downham
Market
Academy**

Aspire
Ambition
Achieve

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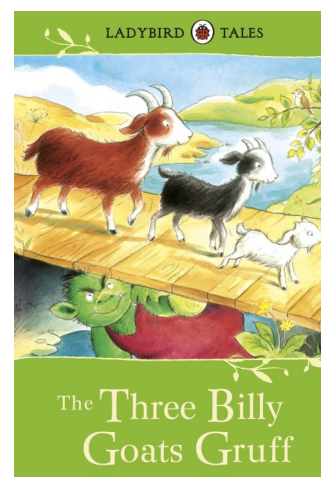
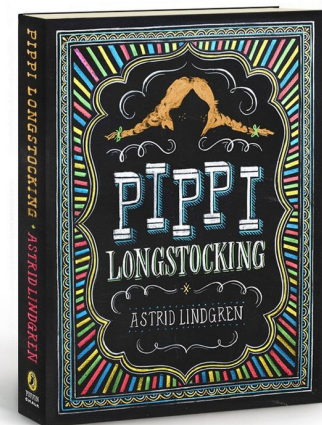
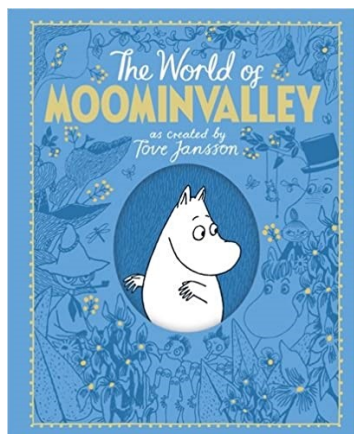
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HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME

'So, what are you reading at the moment?' This is a question I am often asked and the answer is often the same; I am currently reading several books. The truth is I rarely read a book cover to cover and only do so if I am completely transfixed by what is in front of me.

My interest in books started at an early age as both my parents were teachers and keen for me to get started. The earliest books I read were in Norwegian as my mum who is from Norway was eager for me to be familiar with stories such as 'Three Billy Goats Gruff', The Moomins and 'Pippi Longstocking' which all emanate from Scandinavia.



As a teenager, I lost my love of reading for a few years and only started again when a friend of mine recommended 'Pride and Prejudice' by Jane Austen. I periodically return to this book to re-read as it has become one of my all-time favourites. Whilst I don't have a lot of time to read for pleasure now, I find reading is such a great activity. Reading can take you to places you never knew existed; allow you to experience emotions, such as joy or despair, on the same page; or spark your curiosity so you want to find out more.

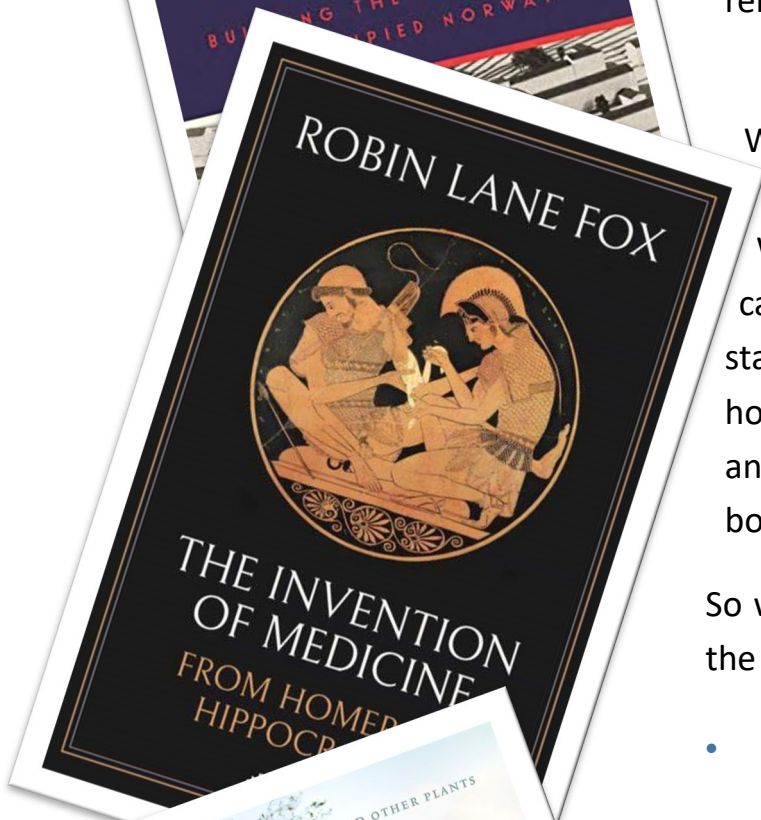
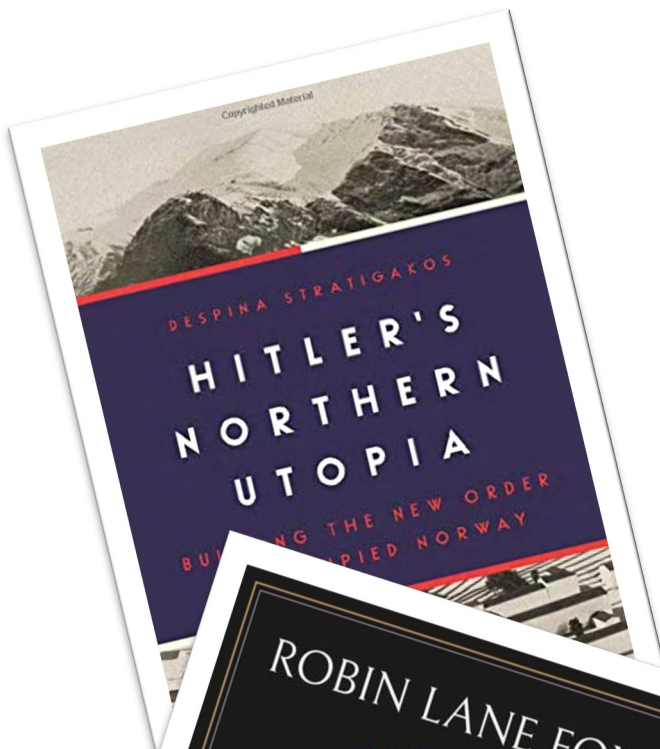
Libraries are such good places to explore books. When I first came to Downham I decided the library should move to a more prominent and nicer room so all students could enjoy it. Now we have an amazing mural painted by Miss Kelly which makes it an even better space to be in. One of my favourite places to read at home is on the sofa, as I can stretch out and relax whilst having a cup of tea.

Whilst I do love holding a book, I increasingly read on my iPad as it is so convenient. Within seconds of reading a book review, I can download the book onto my device and start reading. This is a big relief to our household as we ran out of book shelves a while ago and there is simply nowhere to keep any more books in our house.

So what am I reading at the moment? Here is the list I have started; some I will finish...

- ***Hitler's Northern Utopia***
by Despina Stratigakos
- ***The Invention of Medicine***
by Robin Lane Fox
- ***Root, Stem, Leaf, Flower***
by Gill Meller

Written by Rolf Purvis
Head of Downham
Market Academy



BOOKS, PICS AND CHILL

WORK IN PROGRESS



When you think of a library, you probably think of either a place of calm reflection or perhaps a place piled high with a wide variety of books that you just can get lost in. Our own library has been undergoing a major refurbishment over the last couple of months and we are striving to combine both of these ideals: plenty of titles for escapism and a welcoming space to relax with a book.

The tired, old carpet has been refreshed with some bright red splashes of colour and more new furniture seems to be arriving by the day. We've got new tables and seating to create comfortable spaces for reading and sharing books and soon we will be taking delivery of some bean bags for the ultimate reading comfort experience.

The shelving is being redesigned to make it easier to navigate and new stock is being added to the collection by Mrs Macallum and her helpers ready for the relaunch next term.

Of course, the most exciting change has been the wonderful addition of the murals that you can see here in our photographs. Our very own art teacher, Miss Kelly, and fellow artist Mr Claydon, have been very busy over the half term painting these beautiful portraits of Stephen Fry and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.



Stephen Fry is an award winning writer, actor, comedian and presenter from Norfolk. He has written numerous novels, such as *The Liar* and *The Hippopotamus* and, more recently, several novels exploring Greek mythology, including *Heroes* and *Troy*. In addition to his fictional writings, he has also penned three autobiographies, *Moab is my Washpot*, *The Fry Chronicles* and *More Fool Me*, as well as several non-fiction books exploring a range of topics from classical music through to poetry.

The award winning Nigerian born writer Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie who currently lives in America, has published prolifically over the last 20 years. Her writings include, poetry collections, short stories, novels and numerous non-fiction titles. She has won many prestigious awards for her novels including, *Purple Hibiscus*, *Half a Yellow Sun* and *Americanah*. As well as writing about racial issues, she is an ardent and vocal feminist and a sample from her famous TEDx Talk, 'We Should All Be Feminists' features on Beyonce's song 'Flawless'



Over the coming months we hope to add two more murals to our walls to celebrate some other local and inspirational writers and we look forward to sharing some new art-

work with you in our next issue.

Having been a bit unloved previously, the library is finally being turned into a bright colourful and inspiring space for all students and staff to enjoy. It is still work in progress and there are plenty more changes to come. So, as they say in advertising, watch this space...



RENAISSANCE®

About Accelerated Reader

At its heart, AR is simple. Students read a book, take an AR Quiz, and get immediate feedback. Students get excited and motivated when they see their progress. And teachers can easily monitor and manage students' independent reading practice.

Over 26,000 books have Accelerated Reader quizzes available for them. By choosing books that interest them, and which are of a suitable level of difficulty, students are motivated to read more and make greater progress with their reading skills.

We use AR at Downham Market Academy to challenge students to earn points for quizzes and to aim to read a million words each year. Every Millionaire Milestone is celebrated and all our Reading Millionaire's will be entered into prize draws and will receive a certificate and badge at the end of the year. Keeping track of what texts students are enjoying outside of school will also enable the library to keep up with current reading trends and refresh our stock with popular titles.

Half termly Star Reading Tests enable teachers to monitor the student's progress and reward achievement, guide readers to more challenging texts and to help identify student's who need a little extra help with reading. This test will be conducted in English lessons each half term and is used to generate their ZPD range, which is the book number range that the students should be aiming for to best develop their reading skills.

We are very excited about the introduction of the iPads at Downham Market Academy. Students can now access our Renaissance Learning account on their iPads to take a reading quiz with ease at home and will always be able to have access to our digital library. Teachers will also be encouraging students to download class texts as well as their own reading material, so they should never be stuck without something to read.



THE NEW READING AMBASSADORS

This half term, our newly formed team of Reading Ambassadors met with the Reading Co-ordinator, Mrs Macullum, and the Year 10 editorial team for the first time. In addition to eating biscuits and talking about how great our new library is going to be, students were awarded with their shiny new badges and started to take photographs of the work being



carried

out in the library for the magazine. You can see some of their pictures of the new murals on pages 5 and 6.



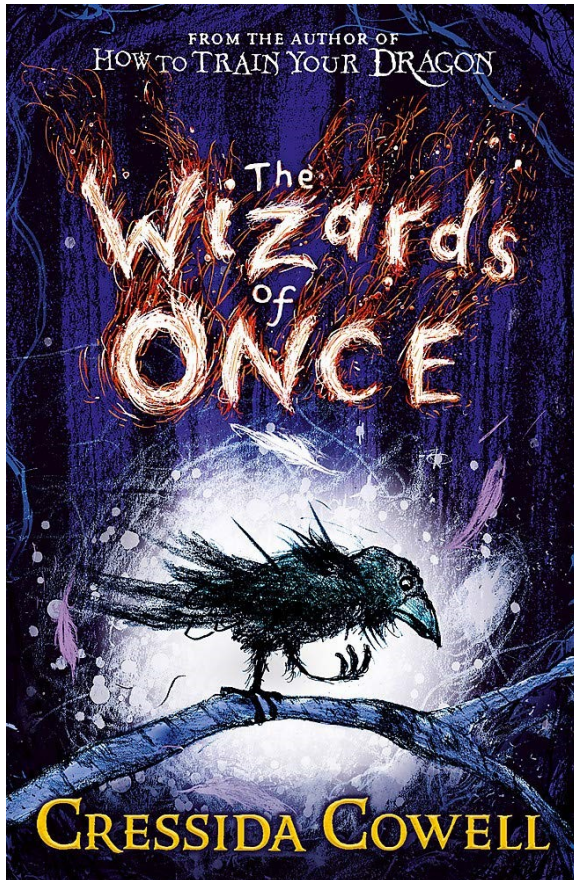
All our Reading Ambassadors are passionate about books and will be helping to transform the library into an oasis of calm and a literary haven for all students and staff to enjoy. We hope to reveal the finalised library relaunch in our next issue and once we are ready to operate our library again, Reading Ambassadors will be in the library at lunchtimes to issue, return and renew library books as

well as helping to keep the space neat and tidy by shelving stock. They will be able to help you find the perfect book. Just look for students wearing their Reading Ambassador badges with pride, like Violet.

To help promote a love of learning the Reading Ambassadors will also be updating the Library page on the school website and helping to organise and run a number of Reading events throughout the year. The Ambassadors have also been busy writing book reviews, please turn to page 9 and 10, to see what they have been reading.



STUDENT BOOK REVIEWS



This is the first book in a very interesting and exciting series. It is about a wizard boy called Xar (pronounced Zar) and a warrior girl called Wish. Xar is the son of the wizard tribe and had no magic but planned to get some from a witch. Wish is a warrior princess with magic that she definitely shouldn't have.

I found that this book is interesting and did not want to put the book down: the story kept me guessing and wondering. My favourite character in the story is Wish because she is kind and thoughtful. She also has a pet spoon!

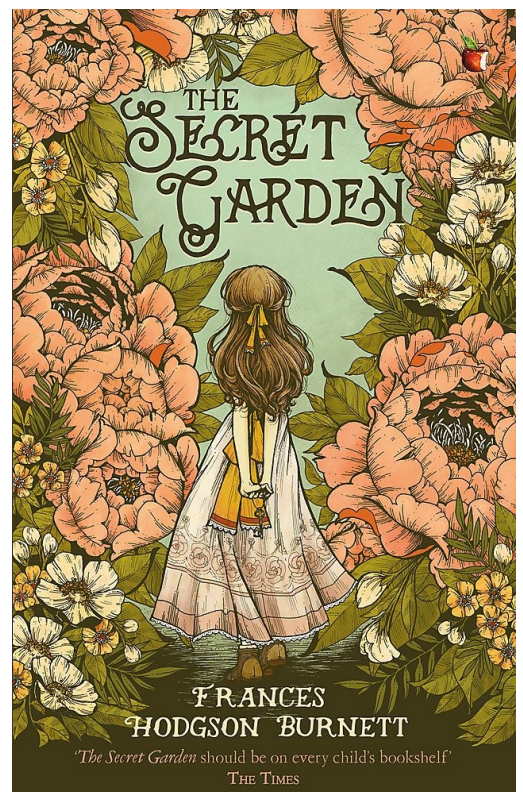
I would say that this book is suitable for anyone aged 9 years and above who has a passion for fantasy or mystery books.

Reviewed by Caitlin Hallet



I absolutely adore The Secret Garden. It is an amazing story about a spoilt girl, who is moved to a desolate manor house in England. Whilst there, she finds a secret kitchen garden. You see her grow as a person and make new friends. However, the dialogue for lots of the characters is written in a heavy Yorkshire accent, so they are quite hard to understand. I would give this book 10/10; though I'd only recommend it to strong readers.

Reviewed by Florence Wright



STUDENT BOOK REVIEWS

About a year ago, my Year Six teacher recommended a Stephen King book to me called 'The Eyes Of The Dragon'. Now, I had heard of Stephen King through his popular novel IT which was going to be turned into a movie. I thought the concept of IT was really interesting and different so I bought the 1000 plus paged book. I have yet to read that mammoth of a story but I'm sure I will eventually.

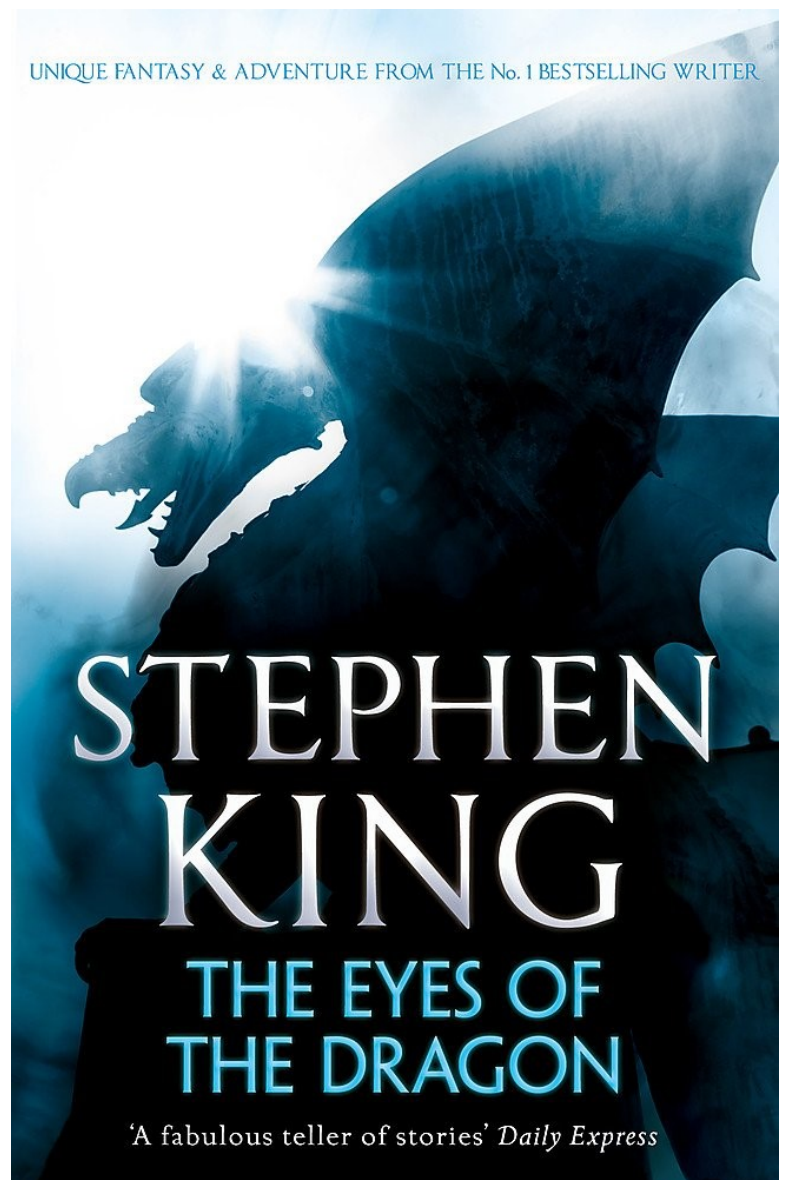
Anyway, the story of 'The Eyes Of The Dragon' is set in the fictional town called Delain where the king, Roland, has been killed and his oldest son, Peter, is wrongly accused for his father's murder. Peter is then sent to spend the rest of his days at the needle of a tower in the town. This fantastic story is full of adventures and new friendships that will make you want to read more.

When this book was first published it got a lot of hate as it was a complete change of style from what he was writing. This disapproval from his fans inspired King to write another famous title which goes by the name of Misery.

Personally, I really liked this book and I think it had a great story. It felt quite fast-paced (so I didn't get bored reading it) but also slow when it needed to be.

Now, I may be slightly biased about this book as it was my first Stephen King one I had read but with that being said: I genuinely like this book and I encourage you to read it if you like that kind of thing.

Reviewed by Ben Barnes



MRS MACULLUM RECOMMENDS

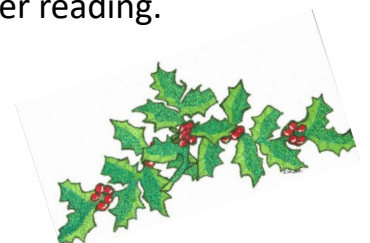


Year 8 have been enjoying this classic Christmas story in their English lessons this half term. I personally adore this book and almost every Christmas I read it again and watch at least one of the many film versions. My favourite is probably the Muppet version, because I like the fact they include Charles Dickens as the narrator. Although there are a few songs thrown in for fun, this version actually sticks pretty close to the original text, so I don't feel cheated, like I do with some film versions of a book I love.

A Christmas Carol was originally published by Charles Dickens in December 1843 and sold out within 5 days. The following year it was republished 13 times and has not been out of print since, and for good reason. Not only is a classic ghost story, with all the gothic imagery you would expect, it is also a heart-warming tale of one man's redemption.

The descriptions of the snow and the carol singers and the party games, is more than enough to get you into the spirit of Christmas. The descriptions of the food alone are enough to make you salivate in anticipation of your own Christmas feast. I love the way the narrator talks to the reader bringing you along for the journey and that, even though it is a short book, it is so rich in description and character. Dickens brings Victorian London at Christmas alive in these pages and it never disappoints.

If you haven't had the opportunity to before, this novella is well worth a read and you have an absolute treat awaiting you. However, even if you've already enjoyed it once, then maybe there is no better time to dust it off for another reading.



GOTHIC READING EVENT



After a glorious start to the year, October saw the weather start to turn and thoughts of Halloween and Firework night crept in. To recognise the cold and creepy season, we embarked on our own Gothic Literature Week.

A number of activities and competitions were run over the week and on the final day of term a number of staff donned their very best gothic outfits to roam the halls reading excerpts from their favourite gothic texts.

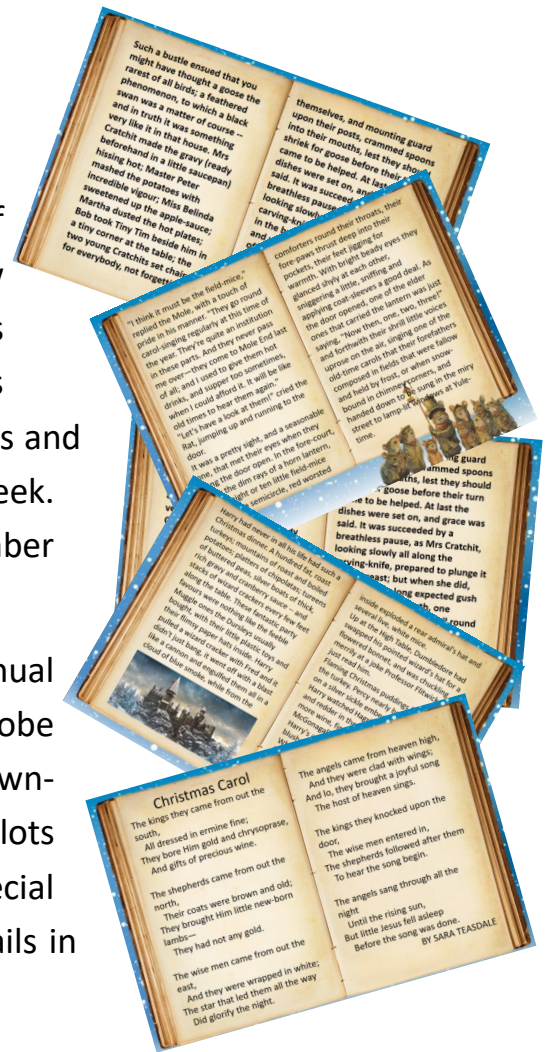
Mrs Geary was resplendent as Mary Shelley, author of *Frankenstein*, Miss Buller was decked out in feathers and black as the Raven from Edgar Allen Poe's epic poem, Miss Lonsdale was seen to be embracing her inner vampire and Mrs Macallum put her teaching skills to good effect as the governess from Henry James' gothic short story, *The Turn of the Screw*.

There were poetry readings in the library at break and the Year 7 cohort were invited into the library to enjoy a dramatic reading of a couple of ghost stories, whilst Mrs Geary entertained Year 11 in the hall with a spot of gothic literature.

LIBRARY EVENTS

Despite the impact of Covid 19 upon every aspect of our lives in 2020, we have still been able to enjoy a few reading events this academic year. Mrs Macullum has been entertaining us all with her 12 Books of Christmas Advent calendar in the run up to the Christmas holidays and just before half term we had our Gothic Literature Week. In the coming year, we hope to continue to run a number of reading and literary themed events .

However, the most prestigious event will be the annual celebration of World Book Day. People around the globe will be celebrating this on Thursday 4th March and Downham Market Academy will be no exception. We have lots of ideas for events and activities to recognise this special day and look forward to providing you with more details in our next issue.



PUZZLE CORNER

B Y R D T I Q E B U E C P E F N Q Y A F
 R L U L T I S T N T R B Y A A S X U M F
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 X R V C E P E M M A Q C X F T R T C Q Z
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 X Q O S U K C N R H H O A I M Z I I P M
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BLACKFLAMINGO

GIRLBOYSEA

LAMPIE

LARK

NOTHING

NOWHEREONEARTH

ONTHECOMEUP

ORPHEUS

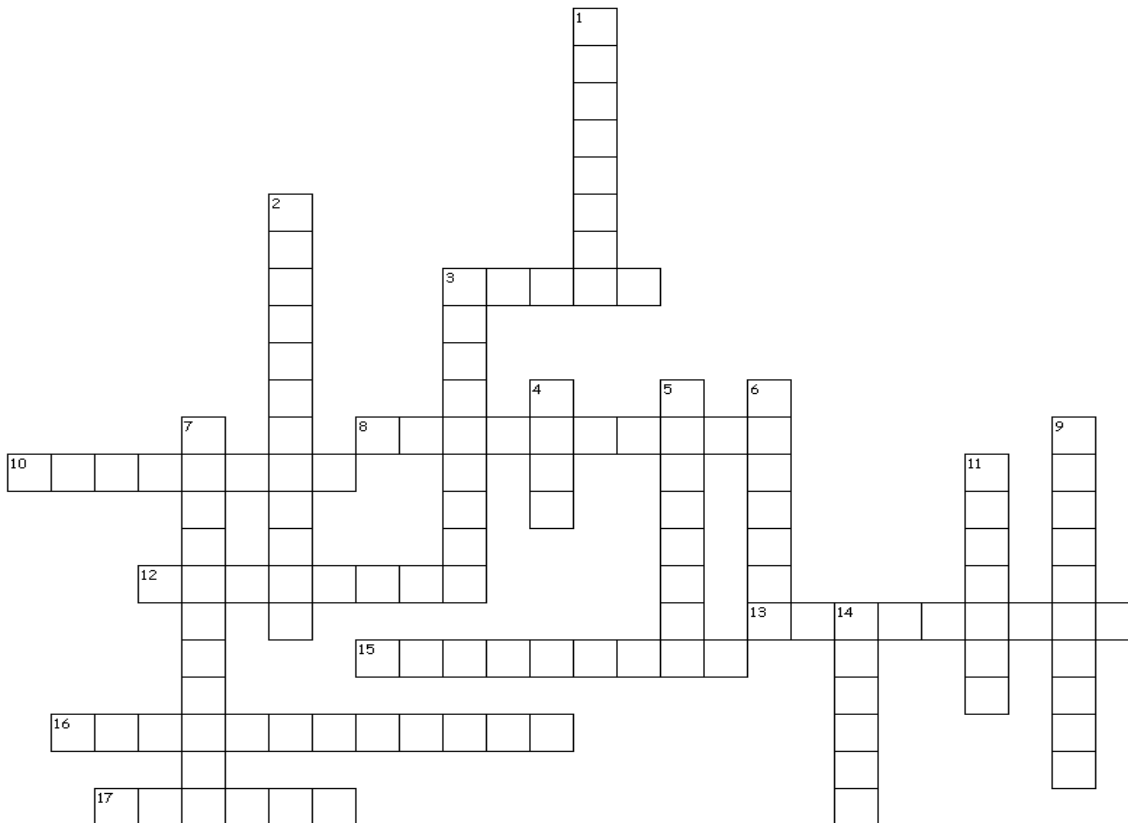
PATRON

SAINTS

UNDERWORLD

VOYAGES

Famous Characters in Children's Literature



Across

- 3. He's not scared of a storytelling tree monster.
- 8. Owns a chocolate factory.
- 10. First name of the Dauntless Divergent heroine.
- 12. Freaky Finch from all the Bright Places.
- 13. Secret agent, following in his uncle's footsteps.
- 15. Lemony Snickett's villain in a series of unfortunate events.
- 16. A 400-year-old skeleton detective.
- 17. Sad donkey from hundred-acre wood.

Down

- 1. He terrible teeth in his terrible jaws, a wart on his nose and purple prickles all over his back.
- 2. Demi-god son of Poseidon, who trained at Camp Half-Blood.
- 3. The spider who saves a pig with her wordy web.
- 4. Travels from Oxford with her daemon to the Northern Lights in search of her friend.
- 5. The ballerina mouse.
- 6. This little girl loves reading and her teacher, Miss Honey.
- 7. The wimpy kid.
- 9. Wise headmaster of wizarding school.
- 11. Tribute from District 12, known as the Girl on Fire.
- 14. Bella Swann's bloodthirsty boyfriend.

CONTRIBUTORS:

Thanks to everyone who helped to make this magazine actually happen. In particular, our Reading Ambassadors, Florence, Ben, Caitlin, Violet, Noah, Joe and Charlotte; and our editorial and technical team, Finley, Lewis and Max. Special mention to Louise O'Keeffe, Michaela Wickes and Shaun Rippon for their support and encouragement and to Mr Purvis for his lovely introduction to this issue.

WANTED

We hope that you have enjoyed flicking through our very first issue of DMagazine and that we have inspired you to read something new or write a review of a book you have enjoyed.

Written and edited by staff and students, the magazine is a real labour of love by our passionate team of volunteers, but inevitably we do incur some running costs. We aim to continue publishing this magazine on a regular basis but we really need the support of local businesses to help cover costs and raise money for literacy intervention in school.

So, if you'd be willing to support our little publication as a charitable donation or would like to promote your business through advertising to your local customer base on our pages, please contact our editor, Mrs Macullum, by email at a.macullum@downhammarketacademy.co.uk to find out about how you can donate or become one of our regular sponsors.

