

DM Magazine



Issue 3: September-December 2021



**Downham
Market
Academy**

Aspire
Ambition
Achieve

Autumn Issue

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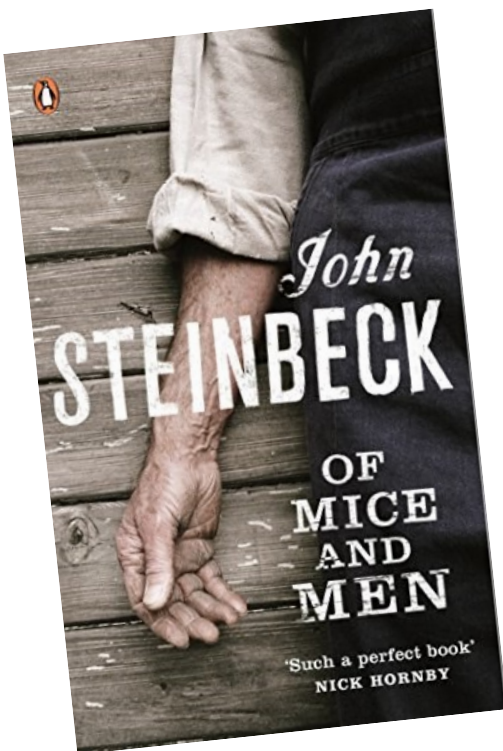


MRS O'KEEFFE'S WELCOME

Welcome to our third edition of the library magazine. As Head of English I spend most of my days surrounded by books and developing our student's love of reading. I enjoyed reading as a child and was a huge Enid Blyton fan, although they have rather fallen out of favour in recent times. The books that particularly spring to mind are the books from the Cherry Tree Farm series, in particular 'The Children of Cherry Tree Farm'.

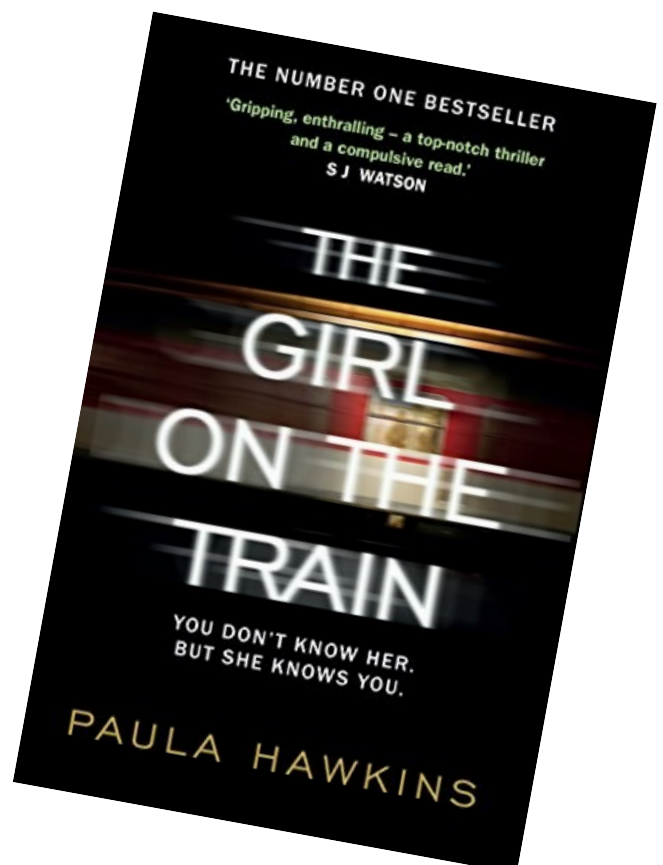


There are lots of books that I could recommend, but the one book that I think every student should read is 'Of Mice and Men' by John Steinbeck. Although it is no longer on the exam specification, it is a book that deals with some difficult issues from 1920's America that I believe are still relevant today both in America and here in the UK.



Most recently I have read the novel 'The Girl on a Train'

by British writer Paula Hawkins. Having been hooked by an extract I read on a past paper, I sought out a copy of the book and really enjoyed it. It is a brilliant psychological thriller, told from the perspective of three different women.



Mrs Louise O'Keeffe
Head of English

OUR DIGITAL LIBRARY



Our digital library was launched earlier this year using the Sora app and has proved incredibly popular. In September all profiles were updated and all staff and students now have a new account.

If you have not set up your account yet, or are having trouble using the app, you can drop into our Sora Helpdesk in the library every lunchtime.

Users can also connect their Sora profile to their Norfolk library account, giving students access to an even wider range of titles. This term, 877 users have accessed over 5,797 different titles and clocked up over 1,475 hours of reading time. This means that on average, our readers have used Sora for 24.7 minutes a day.

Accelerated Reader

RENAISSANCE®

How does it work? 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.

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 Millionaires' will receive a certificate and are entered into a prize draw at the end of the year. Each term our top quizzers will be rewarded with prizes and able to bask in their reading glory!

Top Quizzer Autumn Term Year 7

Charlie Allen

Top Quizzer Autumn Term Year 8

Violet Lucraft-Townley

Best Read Tutor Group Year 7

7/3 (Miss Thorpe)

Best Read Tutor Group Year 8

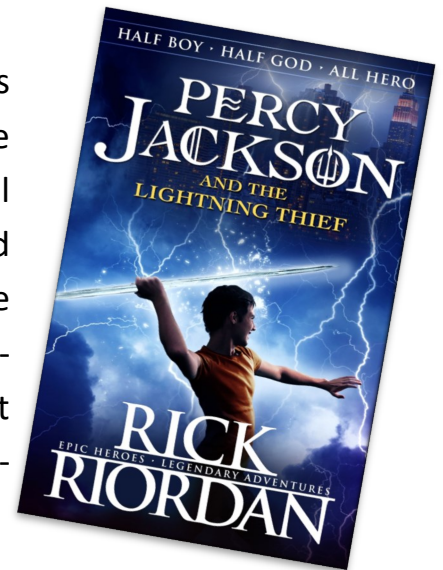
8/3 (Mr Henderson)



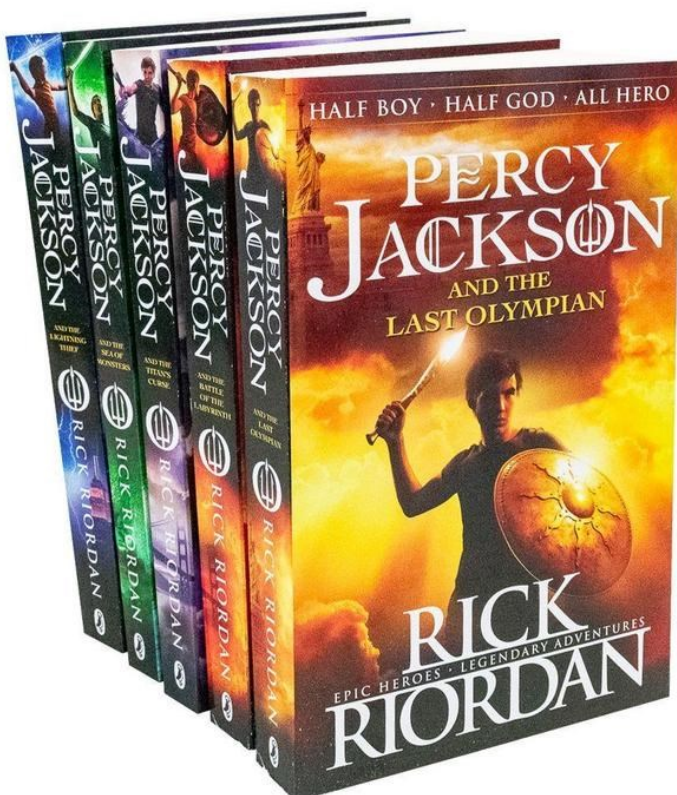
MRS MACULLUM RECOMMENDS

I've always enjoyed reading old folk tales and mythology and have always had a fondness for the Greek gods. So, when my daughter brought home this book from the library, I couldn't help but have a sneak peak. Once I'd read the first few chapters, I was hooked.

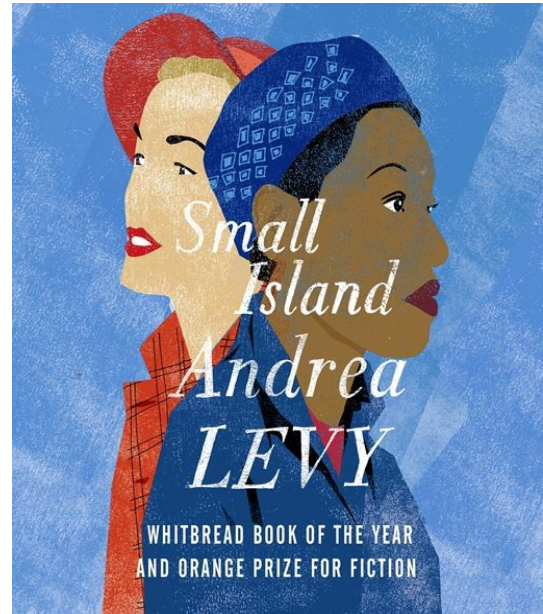
In this first book the protagonist, Percy Jackson, discovers that he isn't just an ordinary teenager: The Greek Gods are real and his father is one of them! Percy Jackson is a well written and interesting character who is easy to relate to and a bit of an unlikely hero. I particularly love Rick Riordan's use of humour and the world which he has created. Riordan addresses real life modern issues and intertwines the ancient Greek mythology to create funny and exciting stories of adventure, bravery and self discovery.



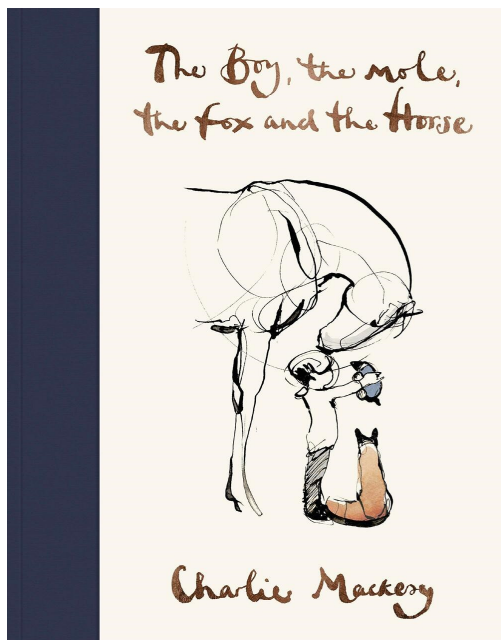
There is a whole series of books and graphic novels about Percy Jackson and his adventures at Camp Half Blood and an equally fantastic spin off series called the Trials of Apollo. If you enjoy these, then I can also heartily recommend the Magnus Chase series, based on Norse Mythology and has a few cross overs with the Percy Jackson stories.



TEACHER RECOMMENDS



Scan the QR code to hear Miss Buller reading a short extract from her recommended read: 'Small Island' by Andrea Levy.



Scan the QR code to hear Mrs Luyten-Coelho reading a short extract from her recommended read: 'The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and the Horse ' by Charlie Mackesy.

THIS YEAR'S READING AMBASSADORS



This term we recruited our new Reading Ambassadors and welcomed back our previous ambassadors.

Reading Ambassadors have a very important role as they help out in the library, contribute to the library magazine and run the various reading events throughout the year.

Violet Lucraft-Townley

Noah Williamson

Lucy Gunn

Imogen Coote

Daemon Bacon

Mia Pollington

Finley Carter

Bradley Carruthers

Fraser Beaty

Florence Wright

Maisie Manton

Hayden Wescombe

Eve Longley

Charlie Rowe

Olivia Bishop

Kayana Obese-Jecty

Katie Walker

Hayley Carman

Finley Smith-Davies

Jessica Eve

Ella Howard

Finley Williams

Leon Dunsmuir

Holly Barnard

Benjamin Buck

Amelia Cowell



Although due to illness we have not been able to meet regularly this term, the ambassadors have been looking after the library and continuing to promote reading superbly. Thank you for all your support!

Our next meeting will be 18th January and we'll be planning our events for World Book Day in March.

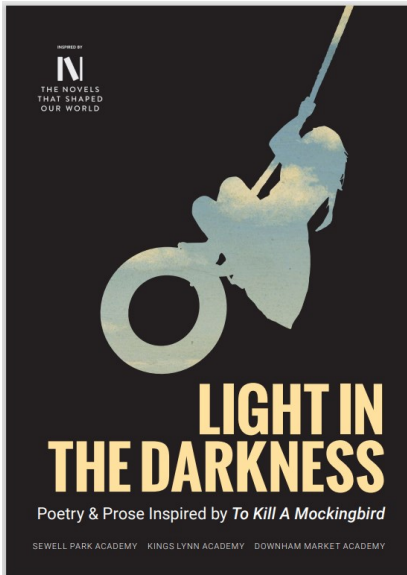
LIBRARY EVENTS

This term we have seen a number of library events. In September, specially selected students from Year 9 and 10 took part in a creative writing workshop. In October, our gothic reading week included the launch of our gothic writing club and throughout the term we have had a number of Drop Everything and Read Days.

Next term will see us celebrating World Book Day again, a 'Blind Date with a Book' promotion in the library for Valentine's day and the launch of a KS3 reading group. Additionally we will be continuing with our Drop Everything and read days on the 16th of every month. This date has been chosen specifically to recognise the 16% of adults who are functionally illiterate in the UK and to try and reduce this for future generations.



POETS OF THE FUTURE



Originally planned for the end of last academic year, the BBC '100 Novels that Shaped Our World' workshop was rescheduled to this term and finally occurred in September.

A mixture of students from Years 9 and 10 took part in a week long workshop, creating new texts based on one of the featured novels, 'To Kill a Mockingbird' by Harper Lee.

It was a tremendous experience for our students to work with actors and writers to produce poetry and creative writing in association with the BBC programme. The work of all students involved has been reproduced in a new book entitled

'Light in the Darkness'

Copies will be available to borrow from our library in January and those students involved will also be given a copy of the book. However, please see below for a sneaky peek at some of our student's work.

I Will Not

I will not sit here and listen,
Listen to the hate on-repeat in my head,
As it hits me I bury it deep in my bones,
Trying to forget about it,
I try and be brave and act like I don't care,
But I do,
It eats me alive,
I lay awake,
1 o'clock, 2 o'clock, 3,
I will not,
I will stand up to you and make myself proud.

Molly Calvert

To The Girl

To the girl who cried rape
You created a lie
You spoke and were heard
But somewhere there is a girl
Who screamed and cried and spoke

But was never heard

Elsie Laws

Courage

My courage is like a chocolate biscuit,
It's common and can be boring.
But sometimes you get that cookie with extra chocolate chips,
or a thick chocolate coating
And that's why...
My courage is like a chocolate biscuit.

Ciaran Samouelle

If you would like to share some of your own creative writing in our next issue, email your work to

amacullum@dma.tela.org.uk



MONTHLY LIBRARY DISPLAYS

Mrs Macallum and the Reading Ambassadors have continued to create themed displays in the library to recognise various events and seasons.

ROALD DAHL

In September the 'Summer Reads' display was replaced by a display of books by Roald Dahl. Roald Dahl Story Day is celebrated every year on the 13th September and in the library we had a selection of activities and competitions for students provided by www.roalddahl.com.

**ROALD
DAHL
STORY
DAY**



As the weather turned colder we started to prepare for our gothic reading week in the run up to Halloween. We created a display of suitably spooky tales, featuring a number of books by various authors, to inspire our young readers and writers.



GOTHIC READING WEEK

October signals the start of autumn and is the perfect month to celebrate all things gothic. In the run up to Halloween, the English department set up a number of events throughout the last week of term. Organised by Mrs 'Eerie' Geary, there were competitions, the launch of our gothic writing club, gothic storytelling and workshops. We hope everyone enjoyed it



PUZZLE CORNER

Library Wordsearch

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

Alphabetical

Ambassadors

Beanbags

Dewey

Displays

Fiction

Librarian

Reading

Reference

Sora

CONTRIBUTORS:

Thanks to everyone who helped to make this magazine actually happen. In particular, our Reading Ambassadors: Florence, Ben, Caitlin, Violet, Noah and Joe. Contributions from Scott Lipscombe and Mrs Macallum. Special mention to Mrs O'Keeffe and the English department for their support and encouragement.