

READ LIKE US



DRIFFIELD
SCHOOL
& SIXTH FORM



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CLASSROOMS &
BEYOND**

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Welcome to our termly update to celebrate everything literary both in and outside of Driffield School. The newsletter aims to update you on what your child is doing inside the classroom, as well as recommend reading for both pleasure and revision. Reading is something which we believe should be accessible to everyone, so at least one of the recommendations per key stage will be a book available in our school's Learning Resources Centre.

Spotlight:

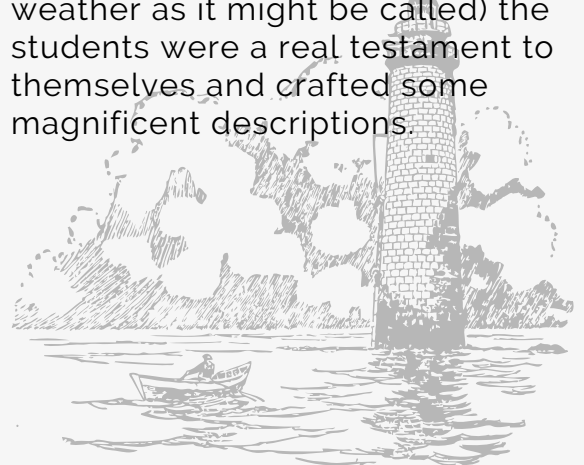
English classrooms and beyond



Students have been kept engaged in English classrooms this term, whether preparing for GCSEs or having just arrived here and getting to grips with studying a full novel. Year 7 have been reading *The Giver*, a thought-provoking dystopian novel which is new for this year, whilst learning about heroes and villains from Ancient Greece. Year 8 have been enjoying the novel *Prince of Mist* whilst looking at both ancient and modern mythology, and our Year 9 students have studied *Noughts and Crosses* and learning about 'Moral Panics' through media. Year 10 have been looking at *A Christmas Carol*, giving many an excuse for students to go home and watch *The Muppets*, and Year 11 have been practising English Language Paper 2, and also studying Priestley's *An Inspector Calls*. For anyone stuck for a weekend watch, the BBC have produced a wonderful adaptation of *An Inspector Calls*. One word of warning for students, however, is that the chronology is changed so not all events match the order of those in the play. That being said, it's a great watch for character analysis especially, with performances from a whole host of famous actors, including Finn Cole of *Peaky Blinders* fame.



It's been a busy first term in the English department, with a variety of fantastic trips taking place across a range of age-groups. Combining their study of the *Prince of Mist* and Coastal settings in geography, Year 8 have visited Flamborough Head, to not only practise their descriptive writing, but to visualise the lighthouse setting contained within the novel. Despite what could be considered autumnal weather (or British weather as it might be called) the students were a real testament to themselves and crafted some magnificent descriptions.



Spotlight:

English classrooms and beyond

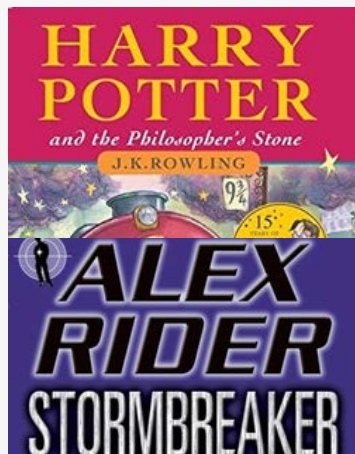


Being Christmas, it was only fair to place *A Christmas Carol* on the extra-curricular agenda, and Hull Truck Theatre's adaptation of Dickens' novella was a fabulous way to do this. Not only relevant for the time of year, it gave our nearly two-hundred Year 11 students an enjoyable way to consider a different interpretation of the now classic narrative, which has hopefully added to their understanding of this GCSE text.



In KS5, English students have had the opportunity to meet an award-winning writer, as well as being able to visit the theatre to watch a live, modern adaptation of *Othello*. In late October the author Sabrina Pace-Humphries visited Driffield School to speak to Sixth Form students, both Language and Literature, about her new book *Black Sheep: A Story of Rural Racism, Identity and Hope*. For Literature students across Year 12 and 13, our trip to York Theatre Royal was a great way to help visualise Shakespeare's *Othello*. Forgoing the ice-cream prices, it was a fantastic rendition of the play, allowing students to consider how the play can be interpreted, and therefore directed, in a variety of ways.

KS3:



J.K. ROWLING HARRY POTTER: THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE AND ANTONY HOROWITZ: STORM BREAKER (ALEX RIDER):

We've put these two series together because they're generally well known collections, but they are seen as kids-classics for a reason, and will hopefully engage even the most unenthusiastic readers. J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter will appeal surely to anyone who loves using their imagination, with a fantastic wizarding world to explore, whilst Antony Horowitz's Alex Rider is a wonderful teen spy series with some edge of the seat action and a great leading character. For anyone new to these books, the two titles given are the first in the series.

PHIL EARLE: WHEN THE SKY FALLS:

Inspired by a true story. It's 1940, and Joseph has been packed off to stay with Mrs F, a gruff woman with no great fondness for children. To Joseph's amazement, she owns the rundown city zoo where Joseph meets Adonis, a huge silverback gorilla. Adonis is ferociously strong and dangerous, but Joseph finds he has an affinity with the lonely beast. But when the bombs begin to fall, it is up to Joseph to guard Adonis's cage should it be damaged by a blast. Will Joseph be ready to pull the trigger if it comes to it?

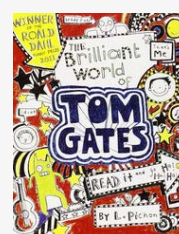
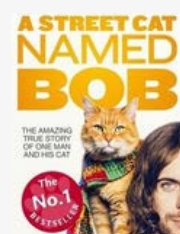
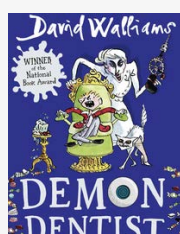
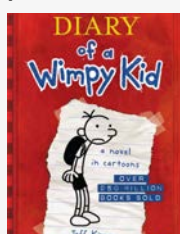
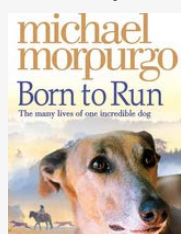


THE WEEK JUNIOR (WEEKLY MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION AVAILABLE IN THE LRC):

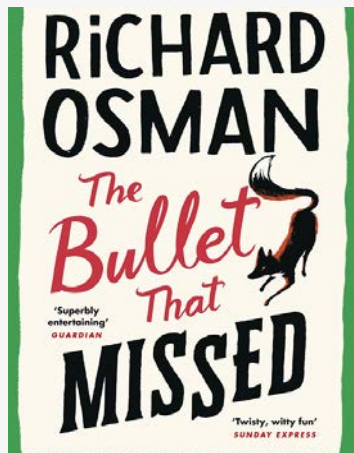
The Week Junior magazine stimulates children's curiosity and fuels their fascination with the world around them. Every issue is bursting with exciting stories about science, nature, the environment, animals to discover, role models to meet, amazing places to explore, and things to make and do.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS – ALL AVAILABLE IN THE LRC:

Michael Morpurgo: Born to Run. Jeff Kinney: Diary of a Wimpy Kid (series). David Walliams: Demon Dentist. Leila Rasheed: Doughnuts, Dreams and Drama Queens, James Bowen: A Street Cat Named Bob, Lize Meddings: The Sad Ghost Club, Liz Pichon: Tom Gates (series).



KS4:

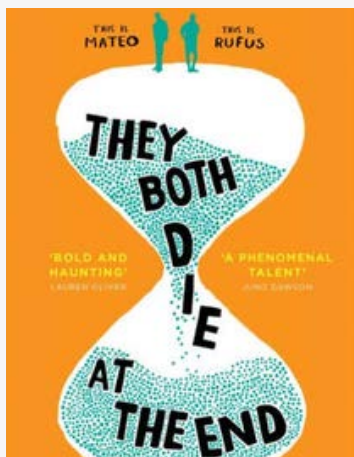
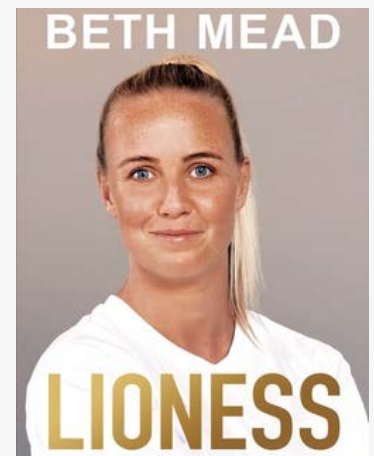


RICHARD OSMAN: THE BULLET THAT MISSED (NOT IN THE LRC)

The fourth book in Osman's well-received Thursday Murder Club series is bound to be a page-turner with its combination of quirky humour and thrilling and engaging plot. A 'proper old-school' Agatha Christie style murder-mystery, it's a great book for anyone who likes getting hooked into a fast-paced story, although it might be worth reading the original Thursday Murder Club (released in 2020) before getting into this one.

BETH MEAD: LIONESS: MY JOURNEY TO GLORY (NOT IN THE LRC)

Beth Mead's story of her life and the Lionesses world-cup triumph is a powerful read not just for female athletes, but for anyone interested in sport, persistence, and a story with a guaranteed happy ending.

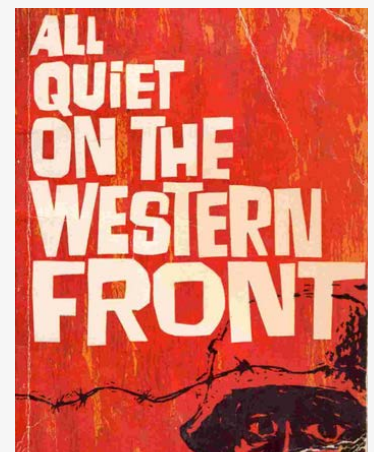


ADAM SILVERA: THEY BOTH DIE AT THE END

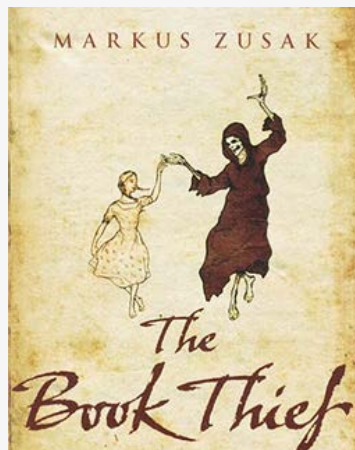
For fans of an unhappy ending, Silvera's powerful description of two teenage boys (Mateo and Rufus) with only one day to live is somehow both uplifting and devastating. An inclusive story which forces the reader to confront questions about death, life, and what it all means, Silvera's young adult novel is an incredibly moving story and a worthwhile bestseller and frequent award winner.

ERICH MARIA REMARQUE: ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT

A WWI novel with the twist – it's written by a German, from the perspective of German soldiers. One for the more serious reader, it's an engaging exploration into the harrowing and destructive nature of war. Widely regarded since its publication in 1929, there's even a recent Netflix adaptation to go alongside the novel.



KS4:

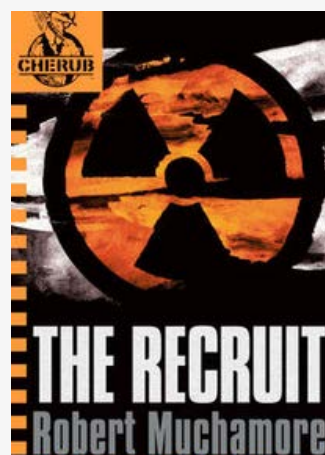
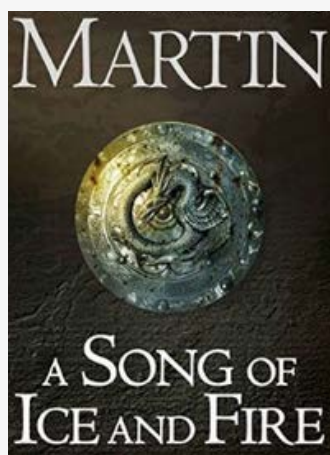
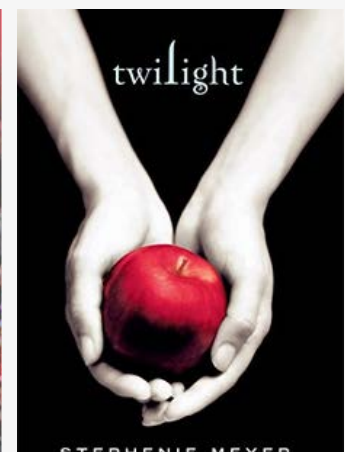
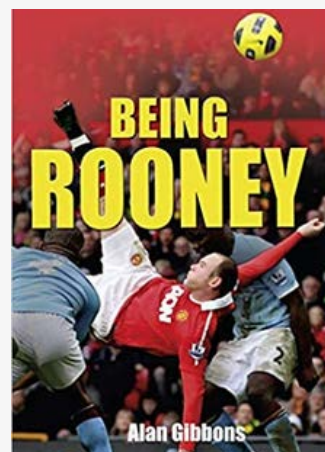


MARKUS ZUSAK: THE BOOK THIEF:

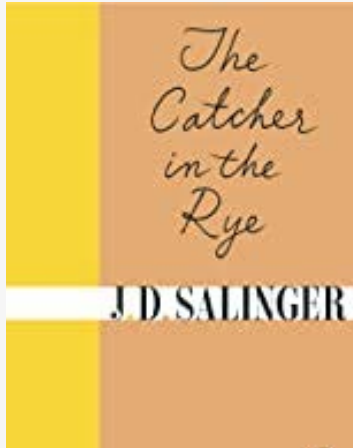
Despite its emotional subject matter, the story centers on a young adopted girl helping a Jewish man living in Germany during WWII. *The Book Thief* is an accessible book for a committed, young reader. A book about the power of books, it is an emotional journey that, for all the horrors of the setting, is ultimately about love and humanity.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS – ALL AVAILABLE IN THE LRC:

Lauren Oliver: *Requiem*. Laini Taylor: *Daughter of Smoke and Bone*. Alan Gibbons: *Being Rooney*. Stephanie Meyer: *Twilight* (series). George R.R. Martin: *A Song of Ice and Fire* (series). Masashi Kishimoto: *Naruto* (manga series). Robert Muchamore: *The Recruit*. Suzanne Collins: *The Hunger Games* (series).



KS5:

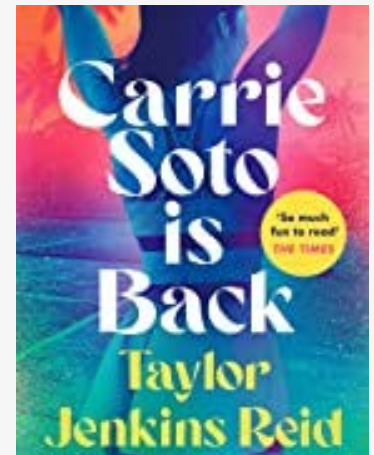


JD SALINGER: THE CATCHER IN THE RYE:

Salinger's classic story of teenage angst is still as divisive as it was when first released, with readers finding the protagonist Holden one of the more 'marmite' figures in literary history. For a KS5 student wanting a more challenging read, however, it's a great introduction to the 'stream of consciousness' form of writing which gained popularity in the twentieth century.

TAYLOR JENKINS REID: CARRIE SOTO IS BACK (NOT IN THE LRC):

Everyone loves a comeback, and Reid's fictional story of Carrie Soto (a tennis player coming back from retirement) channels this joy of watching an old hand compete against the youngsters, and turns it into an engaging read. A story which will be loved by sports fans, especially fans of tennis, it is also a well-crafted story which asks deeper questions about the cost of greatness and achievement, and should be enjoyable for all.

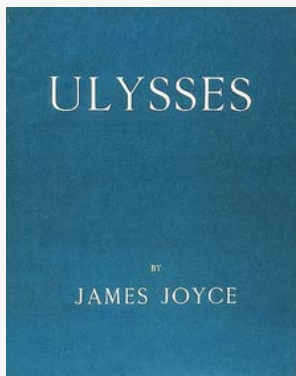


GRAHAM GREENE: BRIGHTON ROCK:

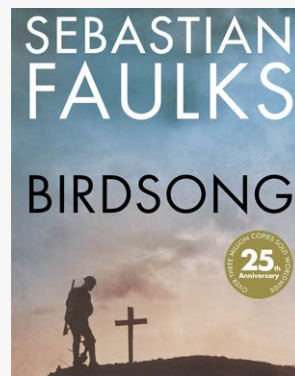
Greene's fantastic character study of Brighton gangster Pinkie is surely as thrilling as it was back in 1938, with a powerful and evocative insight into the root cause of violence. For fans of Peaky Blinders, Pinkie could be seen as a younger but less successful Thomas Shelby – desperately unhappy despite their power. A great read – Pinkie is a real anti-hero that you'll (hopefully) despise by the end.

KS5:

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENTHUSIASTIC READERS – ALL AVAILABLE IN THE LRC:



JAMES JOYCE
ULYSSES



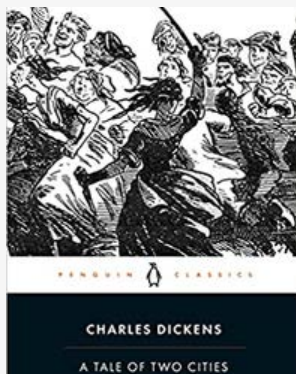
SEBASTIAN FAULKS
BIRDSONG



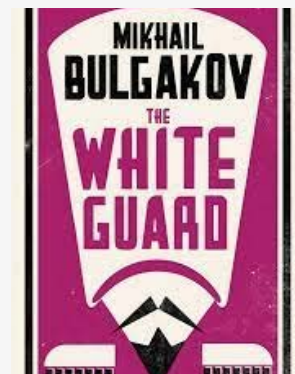
JOHN STEINBECK
GRAPES OF WRATH



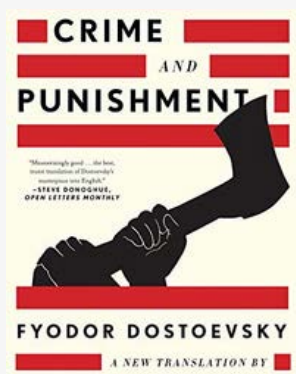
RAYMOND CHANDLER
THE BIG SLEEP



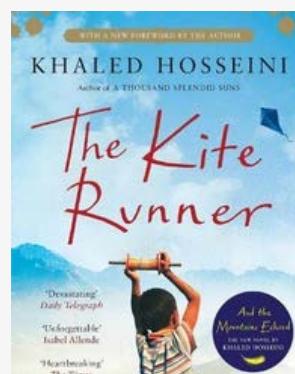
CHARLES DICKENS
A TALE OF TWO CITIES



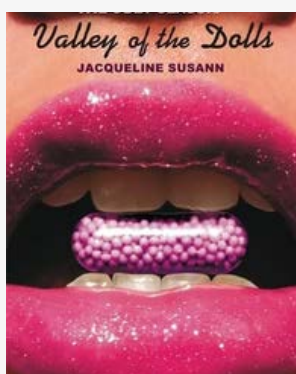
MIKHAIL BULGAKOV
THE WHITE GUARD



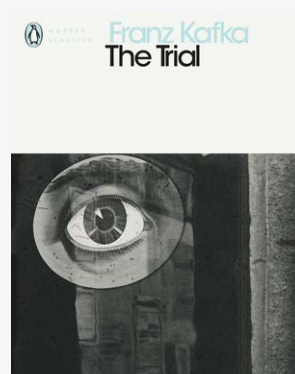
FYODOR DOSTOEVSKY
CRIME AND PUNISHMENT



KHALED HOSSEINI
THE KITE RUNNER



JACQUELINE SUSANN
VALLEY OF THE DOLLS



FRANZ KAFKA
THE TRIAL.

RECOMMENDED ARTICLES FOR REVISION:

The following online articles are free to access, and recommended for anyone wanting to independently revise the GCSE/A-Level texts at home.

KS4:

The British Library has a whole host of articles for anyone wanting to add depth to their knowledge of the GCSE set texts. Ensure you use the 'related article' links on the homepages of the set texts, linked below, to access the most demanding and helpful articles:

1. www.bl.uk/works/an-inspector-calls
2. www.bl.uk/works/a-christmas-carol
3. www.bl.uk/works/macbeth

For more accessible online articles, SparkNotes (www.sparknotes.com) has some excellent online study guides for the GCSE set texts, including some helpful and easily readable essays on key scenes/characters. It's not an article, but MrBruff, found at www.youtube.com/@mrbruff, is a wonderful YouTube resource for Literature and Language revision.

KS5:

SparkNotes is also handy for overviews of the KS5 set-texts, as is the British Library for Blake, Shakespeare, and Keats.

1. www.bl.uk/works/othello
2. www.bl.uk/people/william-blake
3. www.bl.uk/people/john-keats

MASSOLIT is a wonderful resource for anyone wanting to learn more about the set-texts, but also for anyone with an interest in literature. The lectures feature a whole-host of renowned academics talking about their fields of expertise, making them great for revision but also handy for anyone wanting an insight into studying literature at university.

RECOMMENDED PODCASTS:

1. The Penguin Podcast - www.penguin.co.uk/podcasts. A podcast for booklovers from a much loved publisher – each fortnightly episode is a conversation with a famous author.
2. Backlisted - www.backlisted.fm A serious podcast for literature enthusiasts. Each podcast focuses on a specific book, with tons of avenues of related reading through the website.