

READ LIKE US

SPRING 2025



DRIFFIELD
SCHOOL
& SIXTH FORM



With the Spring Term well under way, it's time to take another look at why reading is so important to everyone at Driffield School, and take a look at how we're celebrating our next Reading Week, alongside World Book Day!

We also have book recommendations from students, a poem fitting the time of year, and a piece on why reading is so important to all.

READING WEEK



This term our reading week will take place between Monday 3rd and Friday 7th March, which ties in with World Book Day on Thursday 6th March. Our focus for this year's reading weeks is looking at 'Why We Read', with the intention of helping students consider the benefits of reading beyond simply enjoyment. Activities during this week will focus on reading as a means to develop empathy, building on our focus on reading for well-being last term.

The reading week will also contain competitions for the students to get involved in, namely our Masked Reader and Staff Shelfie competitions. Form groups will have to guess who is reading behind the mask and also have a glimpse into just how much our staff enjoy reading outside of school, as they try and work out whose bookshelf is whose. There will also be staff members reading their favourite books to students in at lunchtimes.

Finally, students are still being encouraged to chat to staff, and each other, about their favourite books, with stamps as a reward. We will also have our next Reading Rewards trip (to the Little Book Emporium) before Easter, with staff nominating students for this term's trip over the coming weeks.



WHY I READ?



Books to me are the antidote to today's modern world – a remorseless loop of algorithms designed to steal our attention for fleeting moments of 'joy'. And I should know – I pretend I'm too good to download TikTok and then get stuck in loops of Instagram reels. Oh, another cat meme, why not? Someone falling over in mud, sign me up! But, to me at least, this stuff isn't really fun – it's mindless scrolling and, at best, mind-numbingly entertaining. And I think it's quite anxiety inducing, in a strange way. The next reel is always just around the corner. Just one more...Just one more...

I digress, but I'm sure most teenagers know, deep down, that spending hours on social media isn't fulfilling. Fun at most, but not fulfilling. For me, the most fulfilling hobby (other than going out with friends and family) has always been reading. The chance to inhabit new worlds has helped my creativity, whilst getting to know endless characters has helped me become more empathetic. 'Great Expectations' helped me appreciate family during those demonic teenage years, and 'Grapes of Wrath' helped me empathise with anyone struggling against the powers that be. 'Life and Fate' taught me that people are strange, beautiful, petty, arrogant, haughty, respectful, kind, loving, terrible, and human. Reading helps me feel connected to myself, others, and the world around me. It helps me relax after a day attempting to be a good teacher and a good dad. And it helps me sleep.

Reading is so valuable. Thirteen months ago, I'd basically stopped reading for pleasure. And then I had a beautiful baby girl. And as any parent knows, free time vanishes. And like any rare commodity, it suddenly gets more valuable. Hours of FIFA disappeared overnight. My Ultimate Team, ravaged. My Fortnite skills, destroyed. My Nintendo Switch, gathering dust. And, you know what, I don't miss it. Because now, after waking, shaving, eating, working, driving, eating, planning, marking, washing, and tidying, there is only one thing I want to do. Reading.

Mr Whitworth - English Department



WINTER POEMS



Winter brings cold frosts and long, dark nights but hopefully these winter poems will bring some warmth and light for you to keep you going until spring!

February Evening in New York

By Denise Levertov

As the stores close, a winter light
opens air to iris blue,
glint of frost through the smoke
grains of mica, salt of the sidewalk.
As the buildings close, released autonomous
feet pattern the streets
in hurry and stroll; balloon heads
drift and dive above them; the bodies
aren't really there.
As the lights brighten, as the sky darkens,
a woman with crooked heels says to another woman
while they step along at a fair pace,
"You know, I'm telling you, what I love best
is life. I love life! Even if I ever get
to be old and wheezy—or limp! You know?
Limping along?—I'd still ... " Out of hearing.
To the multiple disordered tones
of gears changing, a dance
to the compass points, out, four-way river.
Prospect of sky
wedged into avenues, left at the ends of streets,
west sky, east sky: more life tonight! A range
of open time at winter's outskirts.

WINTER POEMS



Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

By Robert Frost

Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

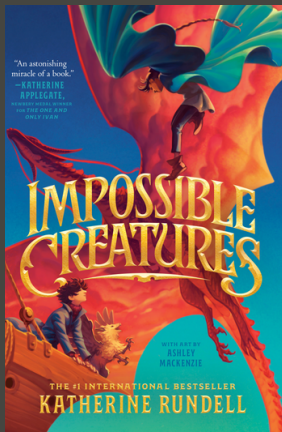
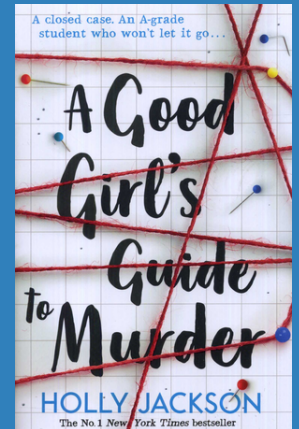


KS3 RECOMMENDED READING:

HOLLY JACKSON - A GOOD GIRL'S GUIDE TO MURDER TRILOGY:

The first book is about a girl (Pippa) who chooses a five-year-old mystery from her town as the focus of her EPQ (Extended Project Qualification). Trying to solve the mystery leads her to a great new friend, but also puts her in all kinds of danger.

The second book is about her friend's brother. This brother goes missing and the police won't help, so they ask Pippa, who investigates with all kinds of dramatic results. The third book ramps up the drama, with Pippa being kidnapped.

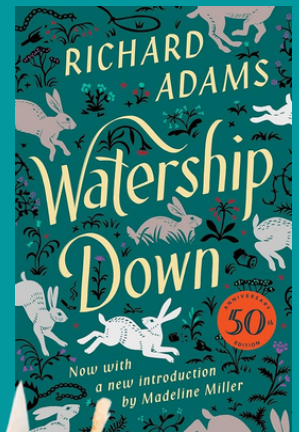


KATHERINE RUNDELL – IMPOSSIBLE CREATURES:

Impossible Creatures is about a girl, Mal, who is being hunted by an unknown killer whilst living on a magical island. Mal teams up with a boy called Christopher to discover the truth about why so many creatures on this set of islands are dying, creating lots of mystery and action along the way.

RICHARD ADAMS – WATERSHIP DOWN:

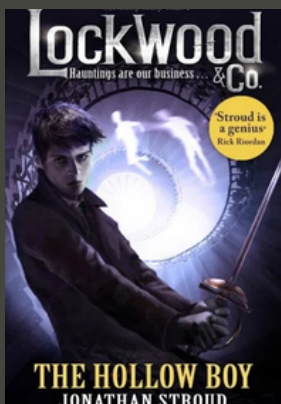
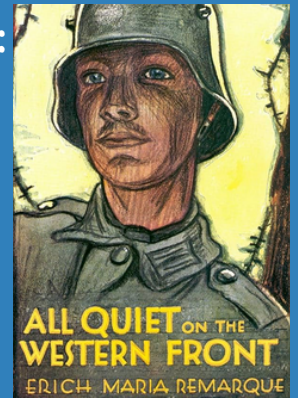
Watership Down is a very emotional story about rabbits in danger. It has a great mix of calm moments and action-packed events, and can be very sad at times. It almost made me cry!



KS4 & 5 RECOMMENDED READING:

ERICH MARIA REMARQUE – ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT:

All Quiet on the Western Front is a wonderful novel for anyone who enjoys war stories. It is also different to a lot of other WW1 stories as it is written from the perspective of a German soldier, and gives a wonderfully terrifying idea of what life would have been like in the trenches.



JONATHAN STROUD - THE 'LOCKWOOD AND CO.' SERIES:

Set in a vividly imagined world plagued by ghosts this series blends spine chilling mysteries with wit and charm. If unforgettable characters, clever twists and an atmospheric setting is what you're looking for, then this is the perfect recommendation.

WILLIAM HUSSEY – THE OUTRAGE

In a dystopian world where everything is controlled, a group of LGBT+ teens band together to rebel against against The Protectorate and reclaim their lives.

This book is a great read, especially if you're looking for something to celebrate LGBT+ History Month this February.



KALIANE BRADLEY - THE MINISTRY OF TIME (KS5)

Intricate plotting and emotional depth makes this book perfectly balanced and a true gem for lovers of literary fiction and speculative fiction, this book is a must-read that is a real page turner.

Accessing Free Books

Accessing books and ebooks via our school and local libraries is a great way of reading for free - perfect if you like to start reading a book before you choose to read the whole thing! Help on accessing these resources is below:

East Riding Libraries:

Students that are 16 and over can register online here [Home \(eastridinglibraries.co.uk\)](http://Home(eastridinglibraries.co.uk)) Once registered they'll need to visit a local library within 31 days where the library team will move their temporary library card number over to a physical card. Anyone under 16 will need to sign up at their local library and will need a parent or guardian to sign a guarantor form too. Full information regarding signing up can be found at the above link.

Once signed up they'll have access to any services offered by the library branches as well as online services such as eBooks, eAudiobooks, eNewspapers and eMagazines. East Riding Libraries also host a number of events for all ages.

Accessing our Driffield School & Sixth Form eBooks:

Access the site at www.vlebooks.com

Organisation name: Driffield

The username is the school username (for example: 18_52145)

Password: Driffield1

If a student would like to borrow books over the break, they can see a member of the library team to arrange this.



LIBRARY

