

# LIBRARY NEWSLETTER MICHAELMAS TERM

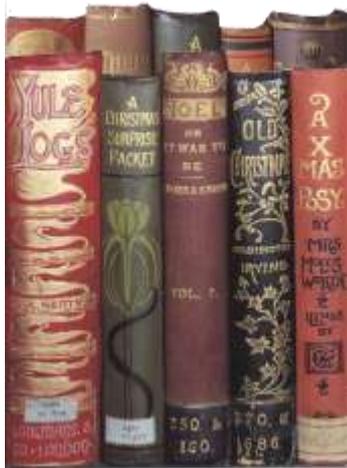


**‘ Knowledge is of two kinds. We know a subject ourselves, or we know where we can find information upon it ’**

*James Boswell  
Life of Samuel Johnson  
(1791) 18 April 1775*



2011



### FRONT COVER

*Before the advent of dust-jackets many books, especially those for children, were bound in brightly coloured cloth with pictorial blocking in gold and colours. These Christmas titles were thus presented as attractive gifts.*

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## CZECH OUT THESE AUTHORS!

I spent the half-term break in Prague, enjoying the architecture and culture. Naturally drawn to the literary history of the city, the following novels and authors were recommended by my Lonely Planet guide as I explored the districts of Mala Strana, Stare Mesto and Nove Mesto with my guidebook in hand:

*City Sister Silver*, Jachym Topol (1994) – a postmodern stream-of-consciousness novel that takes the reader on an exhilarating exploration of post-communist Prague.

*I Served the King of England*, Bohumil Hrabal (1974) – a humorous and deceptively **simple tale of one man's rise to riches and ultimate fall into poverty, mirroring Czech history** from 1918 to the communist era.

*Mendelssohn is on the Roof*, Jiri Weil (1960) – a moving and often wryly humorous memoir of Jewish life in Prague during WWII.

*The Trial*, Franz Kafka (1915) – **perhaps Kafka's** most famous story: a man is put on trial by an incomprehensible bureaucracy, not even knowing what crime he has been accused of.

*The Widow Killer*, Pavel Kohout (2000) – a gripping thriller set in Nazi-occupied Prague, in which a Czech detective and a Gestapo agent combine forces to track down a serial killer.



The Librarian consulting the library copy of the Lonely Planet Guide to Prague

For anyone interested in finding out more about Prague and the Czech Republic, the following books are in the library:

*Prague in Black: Nazi Rule and Czech Nationalism* by Chad Bryant (2007).

*Prague in Black and Gold* by Peter Demetz (1997) – **a personal view of Prague's** history and its people.

*Prague in the Shadow of the Swastika: A History of the German Occupation 1939-1945* by Callum MacDonald (1995).

*Praha, Prag, Prague* by Jan Kaplan (1997)

*The Palaces of Prague* by Lubomir Porizka (1995)

And, on a lighter note, Lonely Planet Guides to Prague and the Czech and Slovak **Republics** .....

## OLIVER BULLOUGH LECTURE

Students, staff, members of the historical association and bastille society and members of the public attended a lecture in the library on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November given by Oliver Bullough (OS) on the subject of Russia and the Caucasus.

Oliver has travelled extensively in the Caucasus region, and reported on its ethnic conflicts and struggles. He gave a moving and personal account of his encounters with the peoples of the Caucasus and outlined their history. Their story is told in his book *Let Our Fame be Great*; copies of which he signed for pupils at the end of his talk. Rory Fraser (Ch) is pictured receiving his signed copy from Oliver, and **Rory's review of the lecture is shown below.**



*There was a certain buzz around the corridors of the main school buildings on Friday the 11<sup>th</sup> of November. The intellectuals of the school whispered to each other only one thing, “are you going” and the reply eagerly “yes, what time?”, “seven fifteen, The Moser Library, Bastille soc”, and so it was set. At seven fifteen all the aspiring journalists, writers and academics the school could muster from the far flung colonies of Moser’s to Grove; had battled their way through the stormy night to hear our speaker, Oliver Bullough OS.*

*Mr Bullough – quietly yet with a certain aura of potential knowledge – stood behind the lectern and began what was to be best lecture I have ever had the good fortune to attend. The lecture was entitled ‘Let Our Fame Be Great’ and was about the content of the book Mr Bullough had recently published, which has been lavished with praise by almost every major newspaper. I could see why it had had such rave reviews. Our speaker spoke with such fluency and flair about the subject which we knew nothing about, The Mountain Peoples of the Caucasus.*

*He began by telling us that his spark of inspiration and what made him so keen on history had been his old teacher, Dr Morrogh here at Shrewsbury in Severn Hill. He spoke about these mystic lands, where tradition had not changed for centuries and different tribes of people inhabited these areas that are so isolated, and that it took the full might of the Russian empire almost three centuries to conquer them. We learned of the Circassians and The Ossetians, The Nogai Nomads and Mountain Turks surrounding Mt Elbrus. To the audience of ignorant teenagers, as far we were concerned it seemed as though Oliver Bullough had travelled to the land of Tolkien and back..*

*During this talk he told us of his first encounters with the Caucasus; where a funny mixture of Islam, Vodka and boundless hospitality had left him at the end of a week where he was meant to be writing an article, with a hangover, a great deal more friends and a new-found love. We learned of how the Russians crushed the Caucasus and Stalin tried to obliterate all their customs; but how their spirit, optimism and hope had kept their ways of life alive from Siberia to Moscow.*

***I mustn’t summarise the entire book otherwise you will have no inclination to read it; but I can assure you that by the end of the evening, the pupils leaving the library were utterly inspired compared to the ones who arrived.***

## LIBRARIANS' FAVOURITES

Myself and some of my colleagues from other schools recently got together to nominate our favourite fiction and non-fiction books of the last decade, which are:

Charterhouse: *The Human Stain / Zeitoun*

Cheltenham: *Reluctant Fundamentalist / A Short History of Nearly Everything*

Harrow: *The Secret Scripture / The Wild Places*

Malvern: *The Finkler Question / Blood River*

Marlborough: *The American Boy / Somewhere Towards the End*

Oundle: *The Line of Beauty / The Wild Places*

Sherborne: *Shadow of the Wind / Three Cups of Tea*

Shrewsbury School: *Say Her Name / The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*

**St Edward's:** *Half of a Yellow Sun / William Wilberforce Biography*

Stowe: *The Book Thief / Freakonomics*

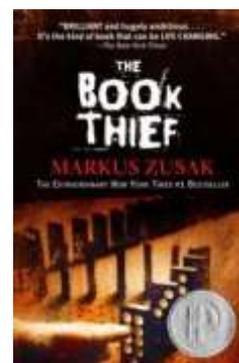
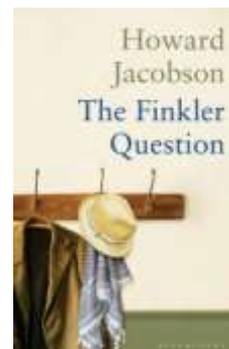
**Queen Anne's:** *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas / The Snow Geese*

Uppingham: ***Queen of the South / The Junior Officers' Reading Club***

Wellington College: *The Siege / A Short History of Nearly Everything*

Westminster: *Out of Shadows / The Ghost Map*

Winchester: *Wolf Hall / A History of the World in 100 Objects*



Which books would you have chosen? If you would like to let me know, then I will put a display together in the library of your nominations. Email me at [anisa@shrewbury.org.uk](mailto:anisa@shrewbury.org.uk) with your suggestions.

I chose *Say Her Name* by Francisco Goldman for its unflinching and heartbreaking examination of grief at the untimely death of the author's young wife, **Aura Estrada**, through a freak accident whilst bodysurfing off the Mexican coast.

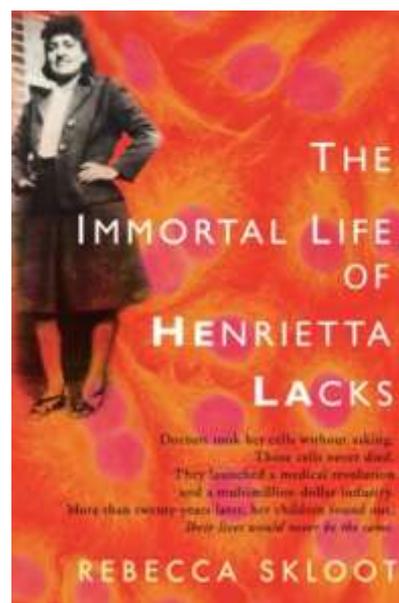
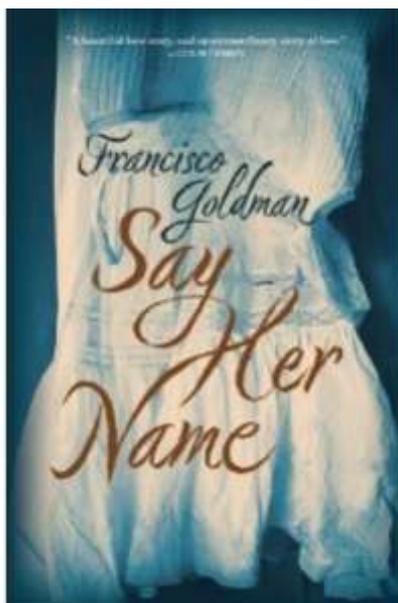
A cross-over between memoir and fiction, the book is a love story and a testament to human emotion and fragility; charting the author's conflicting emotions of resilience and despair.

My non-fiction choice of *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot was a *New York Times* bestseller in 2010 and is currently being adapted for film. It tells the true story of a young woman – Henrietta Lacks - **in America's deep south in the 1950s**. Diagnosed with cervical cancer at the age of thirty one, samples of her **cancerous cells were removed without hers or her family's knowledge and cultivated** in laboratories to be exported and used worldwide by scientists researching cures for cancer. Known as the HeLa strain – after her initials - it was only in the 1990s that her family learnt that this procedure had taken place, and that her cells had in effect become immortal.

It is a **hard-hitting piece of investigative journalism that follows a family's search for ownership of their mother's remains and raises controversial issues around institutional racism, informed consent and medical ethics.**

**If this book appeals to you, then you may also like to look at Siddharta Mukherjee's 2011 book *The Emperor of all Maladies: A Biography of Cancer*. This debut work won the 2011 Pulitzer prize for non-fiction, and has been shortlisted for this year's Guardian First Book award.**

All of these books are available in the library. *Say Her Name* is in the Fiction section in the Severn Room (dewey number 823), and the others are in the Medical section in the Kennedy Room (dewey number 610).



## NOVEL SUGGESTIONS - GEOGRAPHY THEMES

I recently asked members of staff to recommend novels with a geographical theme. Most novels are set in a specific location of course – eg *Winter in Madrid* by C.J. Sansom; but I was looking for more than that; I was hoping for suggestions of novels that evoked physical features of the landscape – like *Wolf Solent* by John Cowper Powys for example, or those which dealt with human geographical issues **such as immigration; as does Rose Tremain's *The Road Home*.**

I received a good response to the request, with recommendations from support and teaching staff which are given below. I am particularly grateful to Mr Morris from the Geography faculty for providing an exhaustive list of titles which was almost a novel in itself!

Mr Adams: *This Thing of Darkness* by Harry Thompson

Mr Bell: *The Tenderness of Wolves* by Stef Penny  
*The Call of the Wild* by Jack London  
*White Fang* by Jack London  
*Snow Falling on Cedars* by David Guterson

Mr Case: *True West* (Play) by Sam Shepard  
*Dover Beach* (Poem) by Matthew Arnold  
*On the Beach* by Nevile Shute

Mr Conway: *Blood River* by Tim Butcher

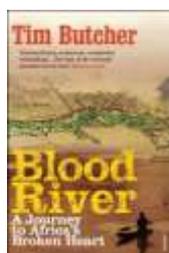
Mr Dalton: *Dracula* by Bram Stoker  
*Anna Karenina* by Tolstoy  
*The Malplaquet Trilogy* by a certain Mr Dalton(!!)

Mr Fanning: *The Shipping News* by E Annie Proulx

Mr Foulger: *Richter 10* by Arthur C Clarke

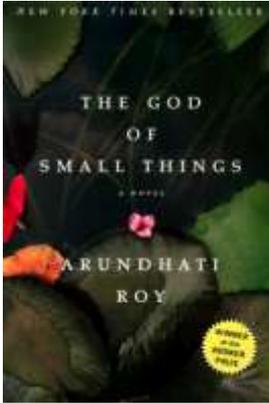
Mrs Gibbs  
(PA to Headmaster) *Snow Falling on Cedars* by David Guterson

Mrs Manger  
(Learning Support): *The Shipping News* by E Annie Proulx  
*The Tenderness of Wolves* by Stef Penny

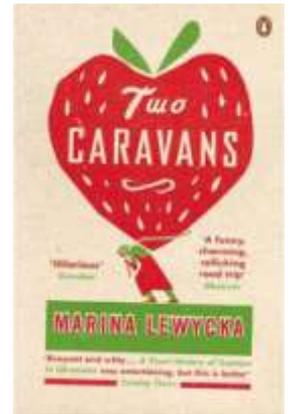


# NOVEL SUGGESTIONS - GEOGRAPHY THEMES

Mr Morris:



*Brighton Rock* by Graham Greene  
***Tess of the D'Urbervilles*** by Thomas Hardy  
*Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad  
*Blade Runner* by Philip K. Dick  
*The Children of Men* by P. D. James  
*The Beach* by Alex Garland  
*The Road to Wigan Pier* by George Orwell  
*Lilac and Flag* by John Berger  
*Small Island* by Andrea Levy  
*Half of a Yellow Sun* by Ngozi Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie  
*Two Caravans* by Marina Lewycka  
*Strawberry Fields* by Marina Lewycka  
*A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian* by Marina Lewycka  
*White Teeth* by Zadie Smith  
*Brick Lane* by Monica Ali  
*Attention all Shipping* by Charlie Connelly  
*The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy



Mr Peach:

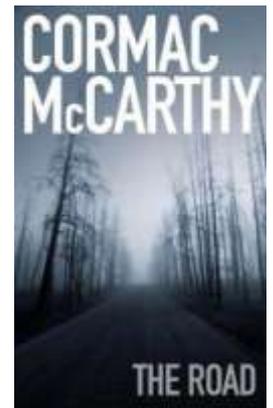
*The Road* by Cormac McCarthy  
*A Friend of the Earth* by T. C. Boyle

Mrs Nicholas (Secretary)

*Waterland* by Graham Swift  
*The Sea, The Sea* by Iris Murdoch

Mr Schutzer-Weissmann:

*Flatland* by Edwin Abbot  
*Brazilian Adventure* by Peter Fleming  
***Gulliver's Travels*** by Jonathan Swift  
*Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe  
*Cannery Row* by John Steinbeck

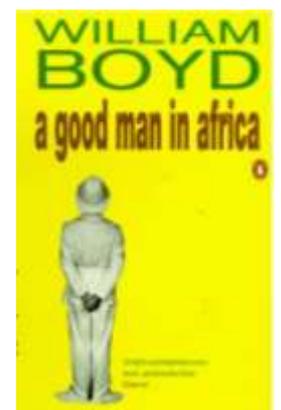


Mrs Till (Learning Support)

*A Fine Balance* by Rohinton Mistry  
*A Passage to India* by E. M. Forster

Mrs Weston:

*The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver  
*Brazzaville Beach* by William Boyd  
*A Good Man in Africa* by William Boyd  
*An Ice Cream War* by William Boyd



Miss Whittle:

*Oryx and Crake* by Margaret Atwood  
*The Road* by Cormac McCarthy  
*English Passengers* by Matthew Kneale

## NOVEL SUGGESTIONS - GEOGRAPHY THEMES

As you can see, *The Shipping News*, *The Tenderness of Wolves* and *Snow Falling on Cedars* were mentioned by more than one person. **If you haven't read them yet then come along to the library and have a look at them ... these and other geography-themed novels are on display in the library right now.**

Of course I should mention my own personal favourite, which is *Miss Smilla's Feeling for Snow* by Peter Hoeg; an Icelandic crime story featuring a detective as icy and mysterious as the landscape around her. **If you like this genre and haven't already discovered the novels,** then you should also take a look at Stieg Larsson's trilogy *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, *The Girl Who Played With Fire* and *The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest*, which are set in Sweden.



# QUIZ

What is the earliest quotation in the Oxford English Dictionary for the word 'Winter'?

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In section 597 (Reptiles) how many books are there on Snakes? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the Dewey decimal number for books on Medical Science? \_\_\_\_\_

In the library there is a display of books by Old Salopian authors. Can you name three of these authors? \_\_\_\_\_

Can you identify these Beatrix Potter characters?:



There is a portrait of Richard Hilary (OS) in the Butler room. Can you name his famous book?

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How many countries are featured in *The Travel Book* in section 305.8? \_\_\_\_\_

Complete the following titles / series:

Percy Jackson and the \_\_\_\_\_ Thief

Eragon, Eldest, Brisingr and \_\_\_\_\_

Oath Breaker \_\_\_\_\_ Spirit Walker \_\_\_\_\_ Outcast \_\_\_\_\_

There is a display of Architecture books in the library. Can you name four of the Architects featured? \_\_\_\_\_

**In which of Shakespeare's plays do the following characters appear?:**

Leontes, Polixenes and Hermione? \_\_\_\_\_

Prospero, Caliban and Miranda? \_\_\_\_\_

Saturninus, Sempronius and Tamora? \_\_\_\_\_

Priam, Andromache and Agamemnon? \_\_\_\_\_

Berowne, Rosaline and Costard? \_\_\_\_\_

*Completed entries in by 5<sup>th</sup> Dec please, with a prize for the winner!!*

# BOOK REVIEWS

## THE LIBRARY'S NEW PRATCHETT COLLECTION

Terry Pratchett is arguably one of the most productive fiction writers of our time. Since the late 70s we've had over forty full length novels with highly unique plots. The Discworld series (based on a world which looks like a giant CD carried through space by four elephants and a turtle) has a continuous plot covering several decades. Pratchett's books are accessible to all ages, if you re-read some of his books you find a whole host of new jokes will register that went quite unnoticed to you a year ago! Death gets bored and goes out for a drink; witches like a drop of brandy and their cats have been known to bring in the occasional half of a wolf. Within Pratchett's work is his own brand of unique philosophy, somewhere between cynicism and realism, the books are a shrewd study on human nature. Most people will find a character they identify with: there are few untarnished souls in Pratchett's world...

Book review by Ivan Livingstone (PH)

## WHY TO READ THE JAMES BOND BOOKS?

When you think of Bond you think spy, gadgets, fighting, sports cars, cards and casinos and of course girls. But why has Bond become such a famous character and had must see films created about him? Firstly James Bond is written so that he is a believable character; it is easy for us to imagine his adventures are happening in the 1950s/60s era. Unlike the films James Bond wasn't interested in the gadgets presented to him by the technological genius "Q"; this was largely put in by the producer of the films to make the films more watchable and attractive to the target viewer they were aimed at. There are also finer details in the book which make them very readable; everybody knows the favourite catch phrase of James Bond "Bond, James Bond" or his favourite drink "martini shaken not stirred", all these little catch phrases add to Bond's overall appeal of being very snobby: he plays cards, goes to casinos and generally enjoys life outside his missions. This snobbery would have been seen as very attractive to readers in post-war Britain because it reminded them that there was life after rationing. Overall Ian Fleming created a character that is defined by his ability to put on guises from any part of reality from the life threatening to the comic. Bond is a character who is very believable, Ian Fleming did really did create a spy icon in the Form of 007 James Bond. I really recommend these modern classics to anybody who likes spy books or who is just interested in 1950s culture because they are very gripping books which are very hard to put down!

Book review by Rosie Boutflower (EDH)

# LIBRARY INDUCTIONS

All Third Formers have now received their introductory library tours plus a whistle-stop tour of the Ancient Library and Gallery. If any other student would like an introduction to the library then please come and see me in the library office or email me at [anisa@shrewsbury.org.uk](mailto:anisa@shrewsbury.org.uk)

The library is staffed every weekday 9am to 5pm, and on Saturday mornings 9am to 1pm.

It is also staffed in the evenings between 7pm and 9pm.

Please come along for help with Top Schools, to work quietly or to use the computers.

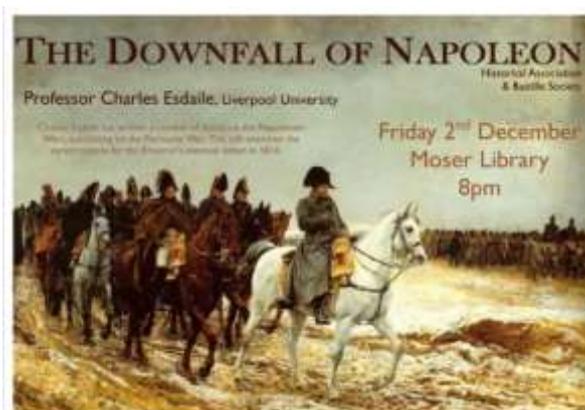
I welcome feedback from students and staff regarding library services. If you would like to request resources or make comments and suggestions please email me at the above address. Alternatively, if you would like to leave your comments anonymously please drop a note into the comments/suggestions box just to the left of the main door.

## ANCIENT LIBRARY & GALLERY

The Ancient Library and Gallery are open every Sunday after term-time Chapel. Please encourage parents and visitors not only to come to the Library for coffee after the Chapel services, but also to take a look at the Ancient Library and Gallery, where each week Mr Morrogh displays a different selection of books from the collection.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 7.15pm, Historical Association / Bastille Society lecture: 'The Downfall of Napoleon' by Professor Charles Esdaile, Liverpool University.



## HOW THE LIBRARY IS ARRANGED:

The following are the main subject divisions of the Dewey Decimal Classification scheme. These show the ten main classes into which the books in the library are grouped on the library shelves and give the classification numbers of the main divisions:

### GENERAL WORKS (000)

General dictionaries, encyclopedias & reference (030)

### PHILOSOPHY (100)

Psychology (150)

Logic (160)

Ethics (170)

Ancient philosophy (180)

Modern Western philosophy (195)

### RELIGION (200)

Science & Religion (215)

Bible & Christianity (220)

Theology (230)

Church history (270)

Catholicism (280)

Other religions (290)

Mythology & Folklore (298)

### SOCIAL SCIENCES (300)

Anthropology, Sociology & Geography (300)

Political science (320)

Economics (330)

Law (340)

Education (370)

### LANGUAGE (400)

In our library I classify language and literature together under 800 (see below)

### PURE SCIENCE (500)

Mathematics (510)

Astronomy (520)

# THE DEWEY DECIMAL SYSTEM



Physics (530)  
Chemistry (540)  
Earth Sciences (550)  
Paleontology (560)  
Biology (570)  
Botany (580)  
Zoology (590)

## TECHNOLOGY / APPLIED SCIENCE (600)

Medical science (610)  
Engineering (620)  
Material science (670)  
Design (680)

## THE ARTS (700)

Architecture (720)  
Sculpture (730)  
Painting (750)  
Prints & print making (760)  
Photography (770)  
Music (780)  
Recreations, hobbies & sport(790)

## LITERATURE (800)

English Literature (820)  
German Literature (830)  
French Literature (840)  
Italian Literature (850)  
Spanish & Portuguese Literature (860)  
Latin Literature (870)  
Greek Literature (880)  
Other Literatures (890)

