

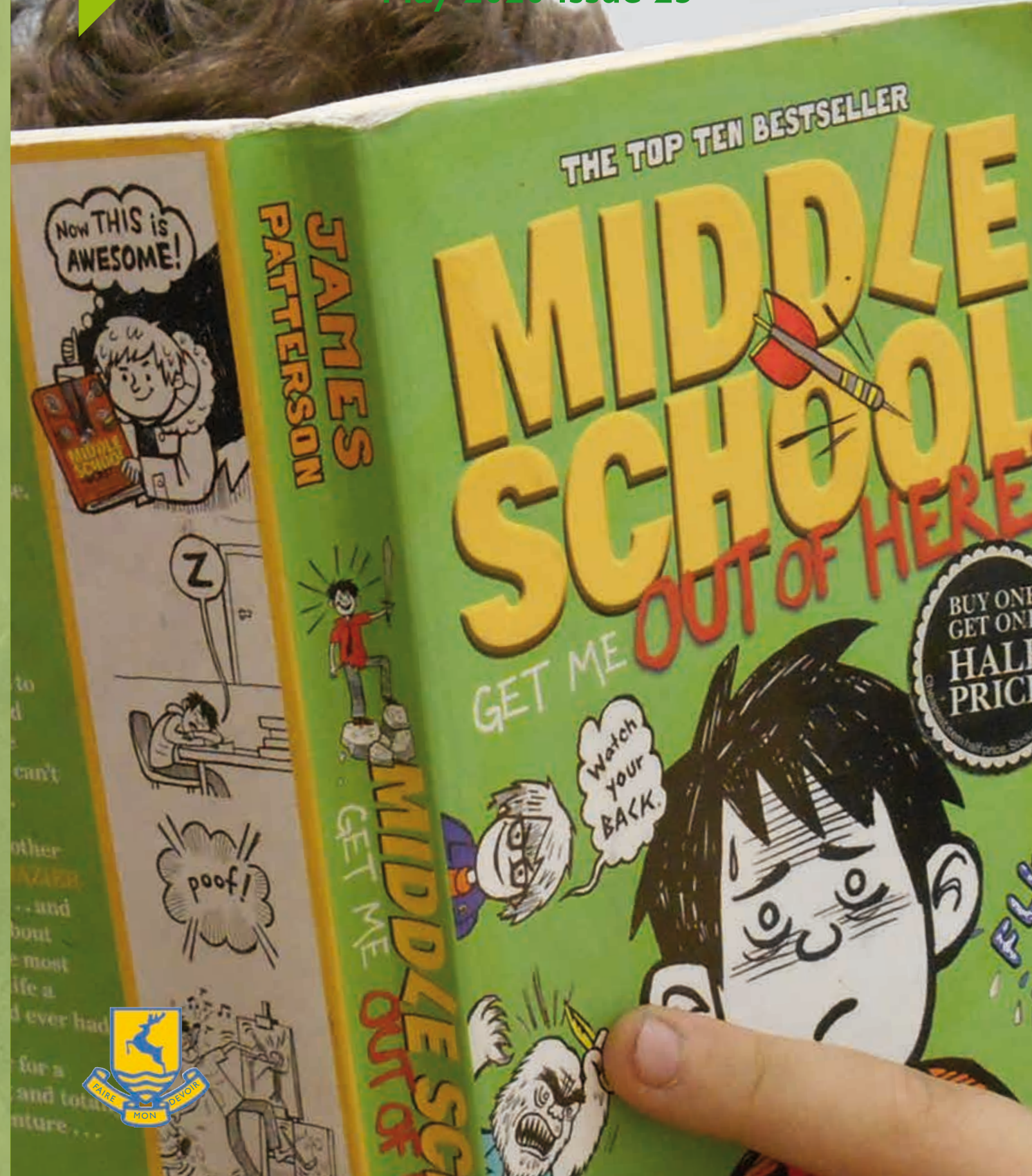
Years 7 and 8
don't forget:

Aim to reach, or exceed,
your reading target on
Accelerated Reader by the
deadline - 6th July.
Happy Reading!

A Verulam School Publication

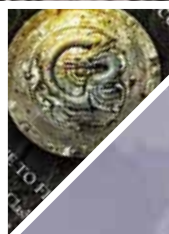
Top Button

May 2020 Issue 23



Top Button

A Verulam School Publication
May 2020 Issue 23



Top Button Reading special Editorial

Many of us are finding that the change to our lives in recent weeks has resulted in allowing us more time to read. As the pace of our lives has altered somewhat, so we have been provided with an opportunity to enjoy a vast array of literature.

In this special edition of Top Button we celebrate the brilliant achievements made by Year 7 and Year 8 students who achieved on or above their target points for the Spring term – with some totals 400% and more, of their actual target!

Don't forget that boys in Years 7 and 8 do have Summer targets to achieve by 6th July, so do keep taking those quizzes. We will celebrate the success of our summer readers at the end of the academic year.

To inspire everyone to keep reading, in this special edition, we have some recommendations of books enjoyed by the boys in our reading community, and some recommendations from staff for parents and carers to enjoy.

To borrow a quote from the free bookmark supplied with my book from an online bookseller: 'Reading makes me happy?'

Mrs Avery
Director of English



Ask a Footballer



Year 7 Reading success

7 Brampton

Samuel Bailey 154%
George Betteley 103%
Louis Dracos 129%
Jacob Finer 115%
George Goodman 355%
Leon Montgomery 133%
Steffan Oldham 114%
Dhru Patel 100%
Nicholas Salmon 127%

7 Churchill

Victor Artemi 269%
George Brandt 187%
Elijah Foxcroft 207%
Aiden Harding 117%
Bayley Hoggarth 190%
Rayan Jamil 111%
Maxwell Milton 156%
Taylor Silcox 151%
Charles Waters 103%
Nico Winter 219%

7 Hamilton

Robert Booy 253%
Malachi Clarke 359%
Blake Kirby 275%
George Lasbrey 108%
Harry Robinson 215%
Hernry Skaanild 203%
Joshua Sperry 127%
Latieef Yasin 235%

7 Jennings

Mubashshir Ahmed 311%
Joshua Banfield 127%
Alexander Bytyci 107%
Tommy Cowie 119%
Basil Dredge 106%
Oscar Mitchell 118%
Thomas Murphy 192%
Rory O'Connor 116%
Syed Qutbi 284%
Archie Redfern 116%
Taio Saroya 196%
Gaurav Shiva 167%
Samual Stacey 114%
Marko Vukay 178%
Michael Wadsworth 205%
Daniel Walsh 128%

7 Park

Saleh Abed Hamdan 141%
Oliver Baker 117%
Nikolai Cherniaev 110%
Nicholas Evershed 306%
Max Fergie 150%
Benjamin Hale 205%
Tommy Harrison 174%
James Monribot 119%
William Sami 254%
William Shilston 140%
Ben Walters 181%
Hugo Wares 115%
Charlie Whitehead 191%

7 York

Oliver Brown 122%
Lucas Curley 365%
Oliver Odedra 121%

Top performer in the form:
7B: George Goodman 355%
7C: Alexander Evershed 459%
7H: Malachi Clarke 359%
7J: Mubashshir Ahmed 311%
7P: Matthew Farrer 386%
7Y: Joseph Georgiou 463%

Top three performers in Year 7:
1st Joseph Georgiou 7Y 463%,
2nd Alexander Evershed 7C 459%,
3rd Matthew Farrer 7P 386%

Year 8

Reading success

8 Brampton

Salah Bajahaw 124%
Marcus Carvill-Biggs 200%
Janujan, Chandar 133%
Matthew Nicholls 106%
Naveen Normann 147%
Luca Porrett 145%
Saail Raza 211%
Toby Robinson 100%
Billy Shepherd 112%

8 Churchill

Harry Brandt 120%
Luca Castaldo 122%
Henry Gaskin 223%
Jack Gentleman 105%
Tristan Gilbert 111%
Nathan Hall 128%
Jake Hirst 113%
Roan Hoggarth 109%
Isam Jamil 208%
Lynton Thorpe 133%

8 Hamilton

Bertie Batson 130%
Samuel Calthrop 111%
Freddie Durbridge 189%
Uvindi Ekanayake 254%
Robert Evershed 106%
Milo Hegarty 262%
Harry Mogie 121%
Callum Pountain 116%
Castor Warrilow 129%
Oliver Wrighton 110%

8 Park

Edward Browne 107%
Mohammed Miah 106%
Harry Pearce 238%
Vincent Ross 136%

8 Jennings

Dominik Cofone 190%
Max Collins 179%
Oscar Hollingsworth 106%
Ryan Kennedy 125%
Liam Powell 109%
Jack Ritchie 231%
Ronnie Ward 120%

8 York

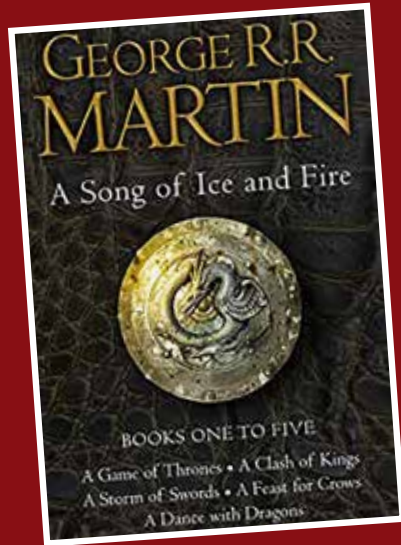
Kristian Atkinson 225%
Ben Browning 254%
Milan Fazekas 108%
Christian Georgiou 154%
Fadi Hanania 100%
Freddie Hicks 195%
Dylan Norman 101%
Jamie Perrin 246%
Finn Scully 189%
Joshua Woodley 120%

Top performer in the form:

8B: Benjamin Carlisle 371%
8C: Angelo Hansen 379%
8H: Milo Hegarty 262%
8J: Jack Ritchie 231%
8P: Harry Pearce 238%
8Y: Ben Browning 254%

Top three performers in Year 8:
1st Angelo Hansen 8C 379%
2nd Benjamin Carlisle 8B 371%
3rd Arlo Webb 8C 278%

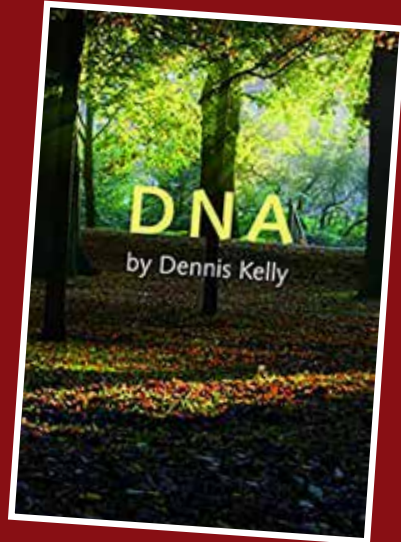
Student recommendations:



'A song of Ice and Fire' series by George R R Martin

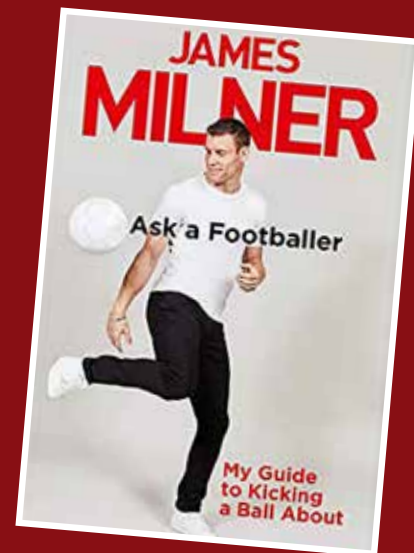
I chose the book because it includes many interesting themes: power, politics, war, corruption, the upper and lower classes, all inside a beautiful fantasy world with interesting houses, each with their own history, vassals, heraldry, household, mottos, uniforms, armies, rivals and other bits of fascinating information that I enjoy reading. The series takes place on two massive continents: Westeros and Essos. Westeros is a feudal society, similar to Britain, with 9 large regions each controlled by a major house, who swear loyalty to the Iron Throne, a horrible Throne made of twisted melted swords, forged by dragon flame. The continent was once ruled by a house called House Targaryen, who had dragons. The house made the throne out of swords of their dead enemies, and ruled the continent for nearly 300 years. There is no book series on Earth that I have loved more than this one.

Charlie Sheard Yr9



I'm currently reading the James Milner autobiography which I recommend, however if you want a fiction book I recommend either an Agatha Christie book or a Dan Brown book

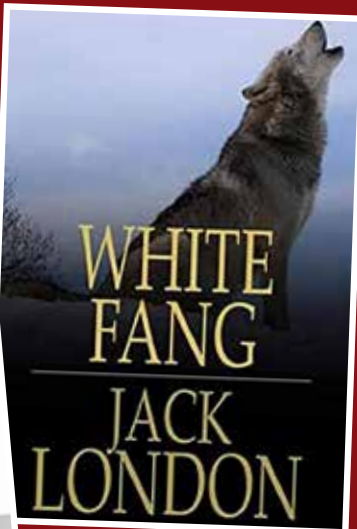
Elliot Johnson Yr10



'DNA' series by Dennis Kelly

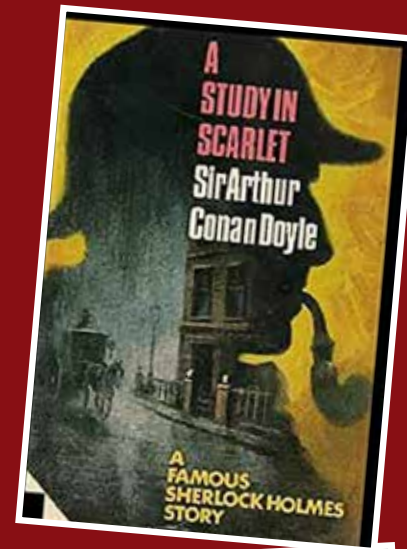
I definitely recommend this book.

Davide Iacobucci Yr9



I have been reading books by Jack London. So far I have read 'Call of the Wild' and am half-way through 'White Fang'. He writes about what people call dog-fiction – life seen from the perspective of a dog or wolf.

Leo Bennett Yr7



'A Study in Scarlet' series by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

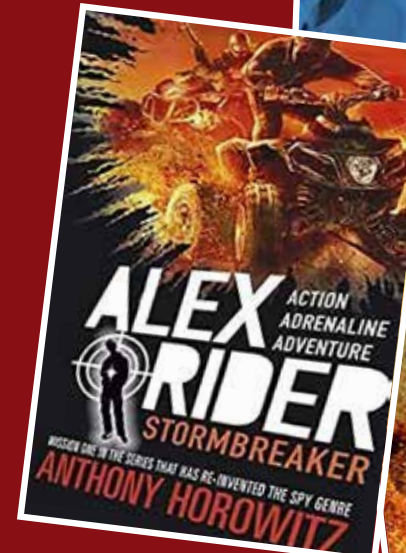
I recommend this book because it is very intriguing and shows both sides of the characters. Also, it develops thinking, and, soon, if you read a lot of Sherlock Holmes books, you will soon be able to think like him, and find out many things about the world today that you never knew before.

Nikolai Cherniaev Yr7



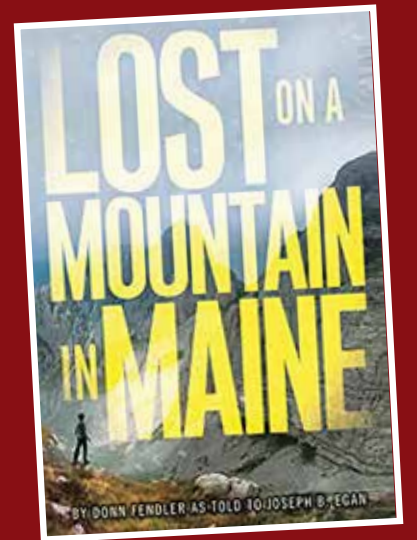
I would recommend the 'Mortal Engines' quartet book series because it is really captivating and a hugely imaginative story.

Ibraheem Latif Yr10



I recommend the 'Alex Rider' series or the Cherub/Henderson Boys series because they are good if you want a bit of thrill and a laugh.

Thomas Murphy Yr7



I recommend 'Lost in a mountain in Maine'. This might be a hard book to find or get because it was written in the 50s. The book is about a twelve year old boy who went on a hike with his family and gets lost up on a mountain. It is a true story that you cannot put down.

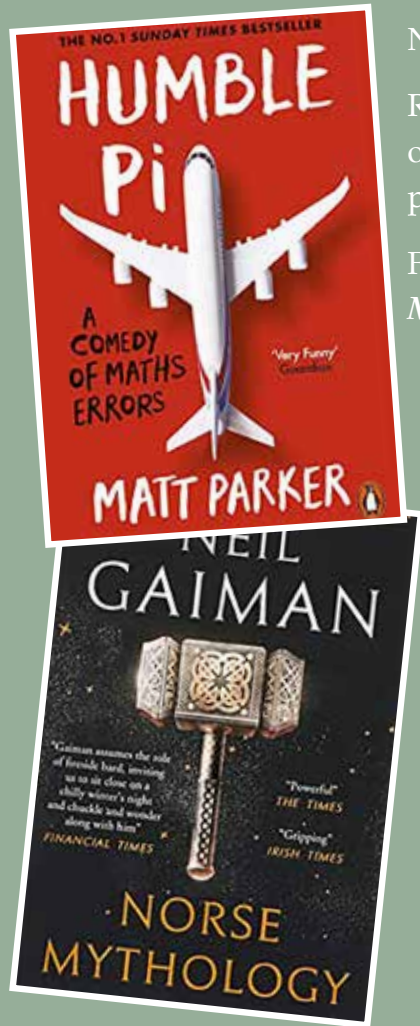
Elijah Foxcroft yr7



I recommend the Mistborn trilogy, with sequel. I really enjoyed it. It's excellent!

Alexander Barnes Yr8

Staff recommendations for parents and carers:



Non fiction: *'Humble Pi' (a comedy of maths errors)* by Matt Parker.

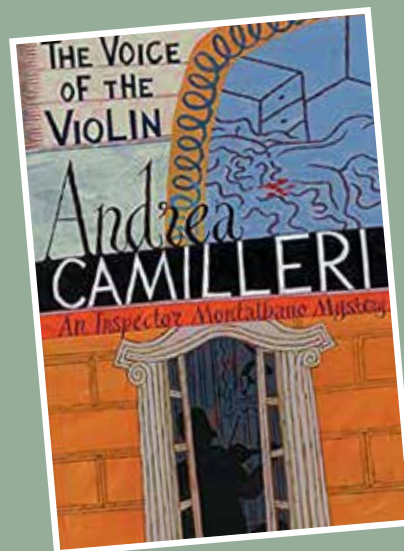
Really entertaining read about mathematical errors that led to a variety of accidents/incidents eg plane crashes, bridges collapsing, stocks disappearing. I would recommend it even if you're not a mathematician.

Fiction: *'The Flatshare'* by Beth O Leary and *'Little Fires Everywhere'* by Cele Ms Rosler

'Behind the Mask' by Tyson Fury

'Behind the Mask' is an unflinching autobiography from the greatest boxer of our time and a man who has demonstrated strength of a very different kind by conquering his demons.'

Mr Lewis



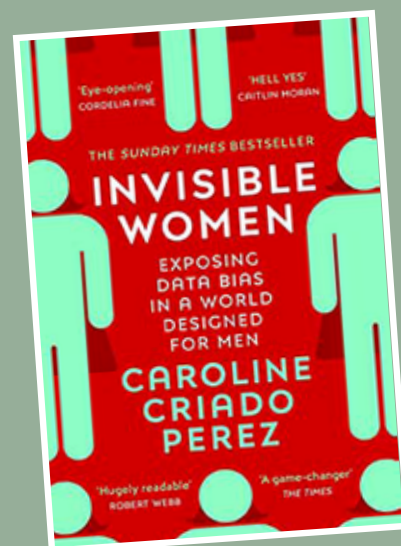
I can't personally vouch for the English translations, as I read them in Italian, but the fact that Mr Ramsey speaks highly of them, gives me confidence in recommending Andrea Camilleri's series of Inspector Montalbano crime novels. *'The Voice of the Violin'*, *'The Shape of Water'* and *'The Scent of the Night'*, to name but three.

Mrs Inskip

'The shortest history of Germany' by James Hawes

A brilliant book which comes right up to the present and made me think very differently about this country. The section on 1914 is just superb.

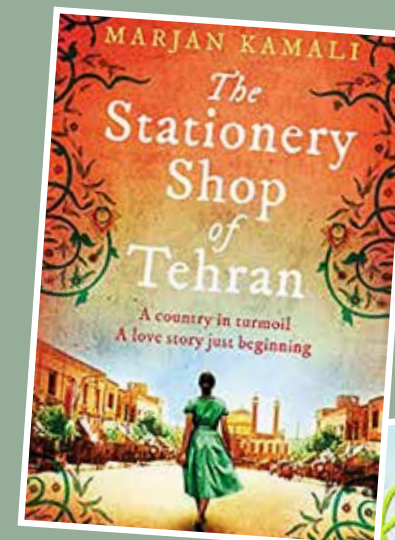
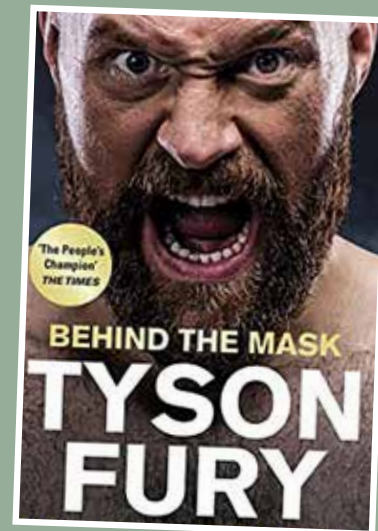
Mr Fletcher



'Invisible Women' by Caroline Criado Perez

I'll be completely honest that I've only just started reading this, but I've been urged to read it be a large number of people. It won the Science Book Prize for 2019, and it looks at data bias against women. So far, it's really interesting.

Ms Howells



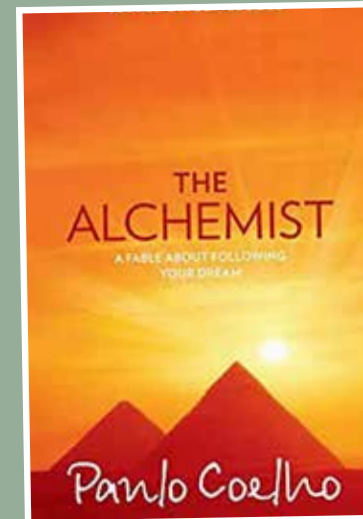
Recently I read *'The Stationery Shop of Tehran'* by Marjan Kamali. It was a beautiful book, combining historical events with a love story. Very good for these stressful times, as it's very readable but with sufficient depth to it. Some reviews I've read seem to focus only on the love story, which is a real shame - although that is also an interesting feature, with various twists. The history and the descriptions of Persian cooking were fascinating and an education!

Mrs Fletcher



I love Annie Hawes, she wrote a series of books about living in Italy - *'Extra Virgin'*, *'Ripe for the Picking'* and *'Journey to the South'* and another book about her travels in Morocco and Algeria *'A Handful of Honey'*. They're funny and very human without being twee.

Ms Moss

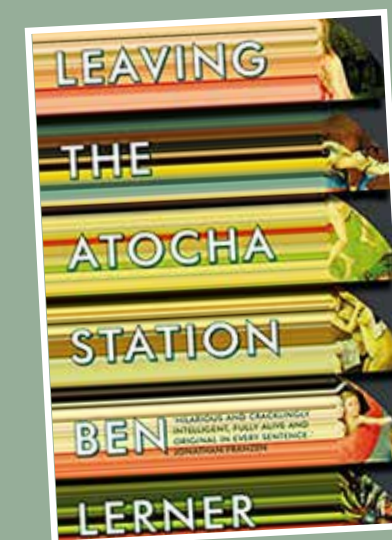


I would recommend *'The Alchemist'* - an international bestseller that I read over two decades ago and which I will be reading again in the next week or so. A short, uplifting novel that carries a message of hope.

Mr Ahmed

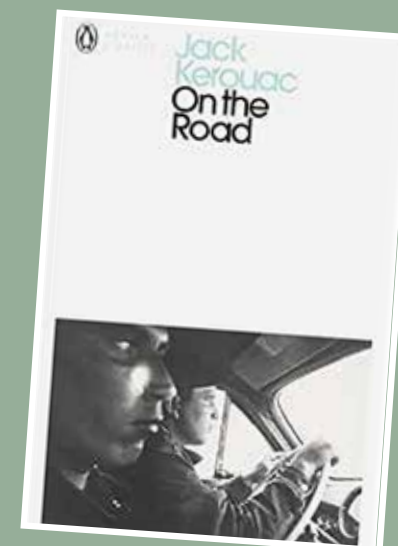
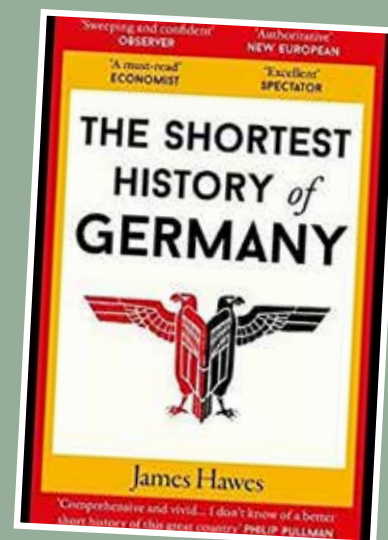
Graham Greene *'Our Man in Havana'* a brilliant tragi-comedy by one of our most under-rated writers who still amazes!

Mr Ramsey



'Leaving the Atocha Station' by Ben Lerner presents us with what should be a highly unlikeable protagonist, but somehow, I was drawn to him regardless. Cleverly written, great for boosting your vocabulary, this book is worth trying. However, I am reliably informed by Mr Jordan that *'The Topeka School'* also by Ben Lerner is even better!

Mrs Avery



'On the Road' - Jack Kerouac will always be a firm favourite of mine. Jack Kerouac's unforgettable descriptions and truly original writing style soar in this novel about a pair of friends travelling across America. A defining work of the post-war "Beat" culture, *'On the Road'* is both a physical and spiritual journey of the narrator who tries to find meaning in his life through his friends, lovers, and adventures around the U.S.

Mr Tromans