



Handsworth Grammar School World Book Day

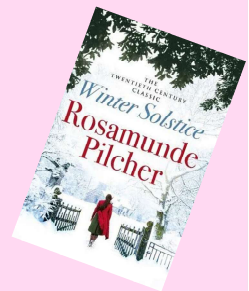
Staff Recommendations
Mrs Linley

What is your favourite literary genre?

Romantic and historical fiction!

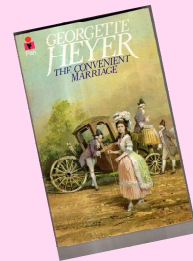
What is your favourite book and why?

Winter Solstice by Rosamund Pilcher, my go to book to read before Christmas as the story ends with a big Christmas celebration.



What are three books you wish you could read again and why?

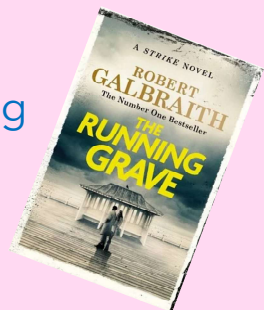
Convenient marriage by Georgette Heyer



We didn't mean to go to Sea by Arthur Ransome

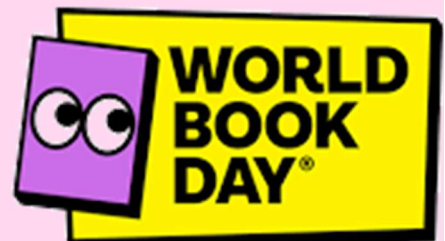
Running Grave by Robert Galbraith

With all of them you aren't sure how they are going to end which keeps you turning the pages.



Who is your favourite literary character?

Harry Potter



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Staff Recommendations
Mr Patrick

What is your favourite literary genre?

Fantasy!

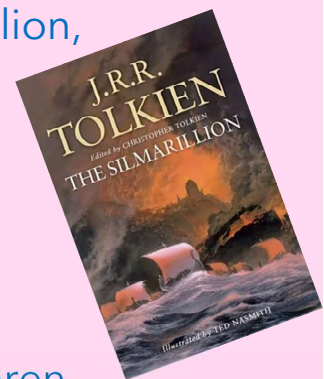
What is your favourite book and why?

The Hobbit not only cultured my love of fantasy, but also my love of stories in general. I have since explored all of Middle Earth through Tolkien's other works like The Lord of the Rings and The Silmarillion, but the Hobbit remains my favourite book.



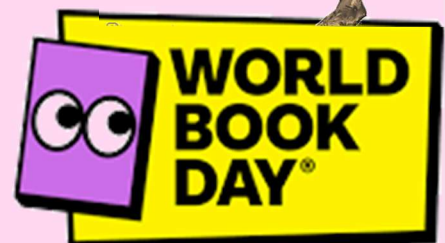
What are three books you wish you could read again and why?

The Hobbit, to relive that igniting experience. Beren and Luthien, to take in that incredible love story again. Hitchhikers Guide To The Galaxy, to enjoy the humour and jokes fresh again.



Who is your favourite literary character?

Samwise Gamgee



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Staff Recommendations
Mr Alexander

What is your favourite literary genre?

Children's books (as that is what I read with my children).

What is your favourite book and why?

A Wizard of Earthsea by Ursula K. Le Guin - it is a gripping yarn with a deep philosophical undertone.



What are three books you wish you could read again and why?

Tom's Midnight Garden by Phillipa Pearce - I loved how the plot unfolded. I would love to experience that again.



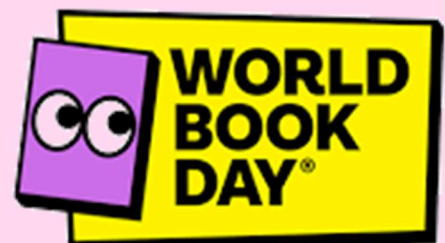
Midnight Guardians by Ross Montgomery - great magical realism but for kids.

Swallows and Amazons by Arthur Ransome - such fantastic adventures.



Who is your favourite literary character?

The Explorer



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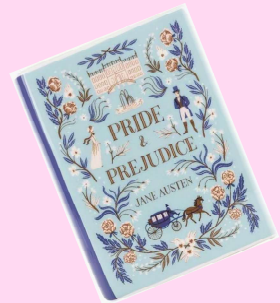
Staff Recommendations
Mrs Mann

What is your favourite literary genre?

Romance, Fantasy or Historical Fiction!

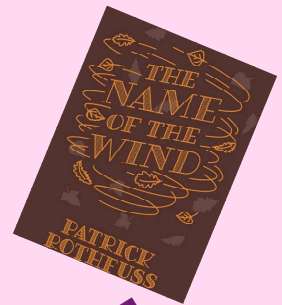
What is your favourite book and why?

Pride and Prejudice because it is very nostalgic for me and drew me into English Literature. I love the characters and literary tropes used in it.



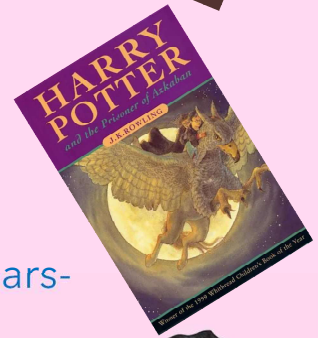
What are three books you wish you could read again and why?

The Beekeeper of Aleppo- An incredible tale of resilience and hope. It is beautifully written and thought provoking. This book got me out of a years-long reading slump and really stayed with me.



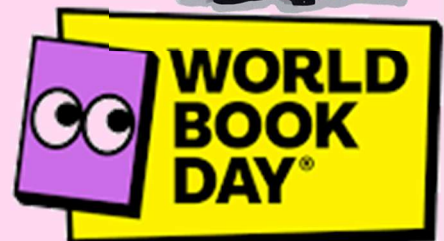
The Name of the Wind- Amazing world building and one of the best fantasy novels I've read.

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban- This is my favourite Harry Potter book and I love the reveals that happen in this which move the story forward.



Who is your favourite literary character?

Hermione Granger!



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Staff Recommendations
Mr Sanders

What is your favourite literary genre?

Mystery!

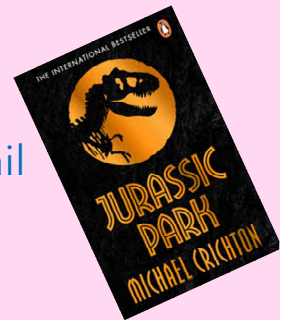
What is your favourite book and why?

The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas - it is so well written and poignant yet informative.



What are three books you wish you could read again and why?

Jurassic Park by Michael Crichton - I had already seen the film, but the book has so much more detail and background.



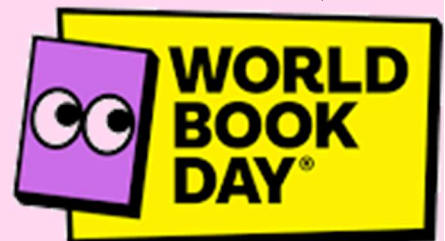
Varjak Paw by S. F. Said - mysterious with horror elements.

Eragon by Christopher Paolini - very well written and is the first in a series that is fantastic.



Who is your favourite literary character?

Bellatrix Lestrange



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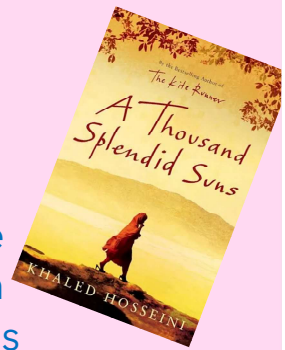
Staff Recommendations
Mr Khan

What is your favourite literary genre?

Historical Fiction

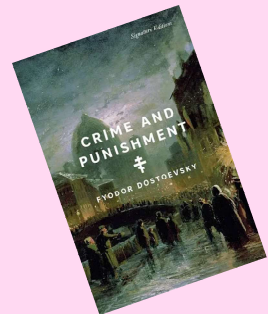
What is your favourite book and why?

A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khalid Hosseini. The way that Hosseini illustrates the struggle of women in Afghanistan is all the more apt today. The book is incredibly moving and memorable.

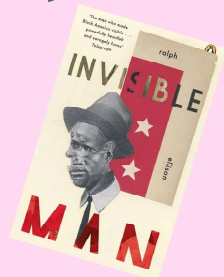


What are three books you wish you could read again and why?

The Beekeeper of Aleppo by Christy Lefteri. A brilliantly moving story of loss, pain and hope.



Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison. The deep exploration of identity in 20th Century America amidst the racism and discrimination faced by black people in America.

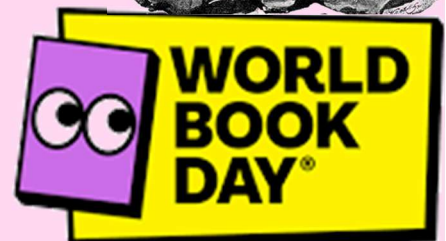


Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoevsky. The question of what it means to be 'good' in the intense exploration of Raskolnikov's mind is gripping.



Who is your favourite literary character?

Sherlock Holmes - its elementary!



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Staff Recommendations
Miss Conway

What is your favourite literary genre?

Classics and magic with a blend of science fiction..
anything really!

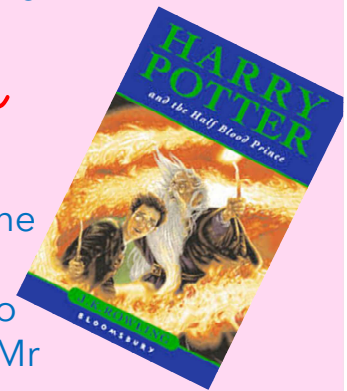
*What is your favourite book and
why?*

Pride and Prejudice - it's so much more than a
romance novel. It's about defying social norms,
friendship, female empowerment, sisterhood and
most importantly Lizzie Bennett is a Queen!



*What are three books you wish you
could read again and why?*

Pride and Prejudice I was too young to appreciate it the
first time, and I made the mistake of watching the TV
programme first. I really wish I hadn't and I was able to
imagine the character without thinking of the actors, Mr
Darcy is dishy though!



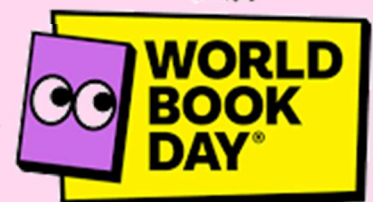
Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince - I rushed it out of
anticipation (having queued at midnight outside
WHSmiths!) I wanted to know what happened so badly I
read the last chapter first. Ruined the book.

Paddington - with my Pops my favourite childhood
memories consisted of this book and his funny voices for
each character! He's no longer with us so nostalgic reasons
for that one.



*Who is your favourite literary
character?*

Elizabeth Bennett closely followed by Severus
Snape!



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Staff Recommendations
Mr Thaper

What is your favourite literary genre?

Geo-politics.

What is your favourite book and why?

Nothing to Envy by Barbara Demick - because I find the North Korean governance interesting.

What are three books you wish you could read again and why?

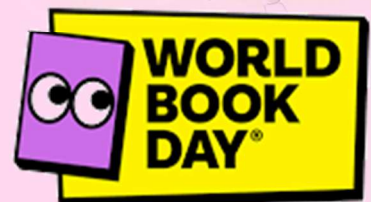
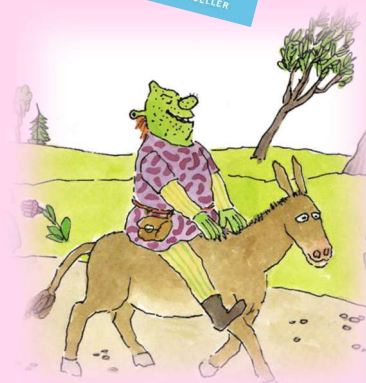
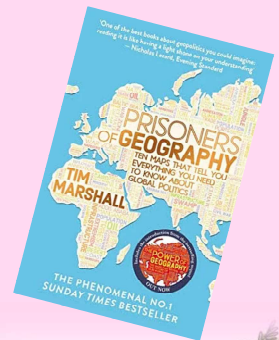
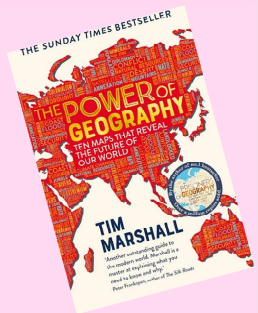
Prisoners of Geography by Tim Marshall

The Power of Geography by Tim Marshall

Inside North Korea by Michael Palin
I really really like (Human) Geography.

Who is your favourite literary character?

Donkey in Shrek!



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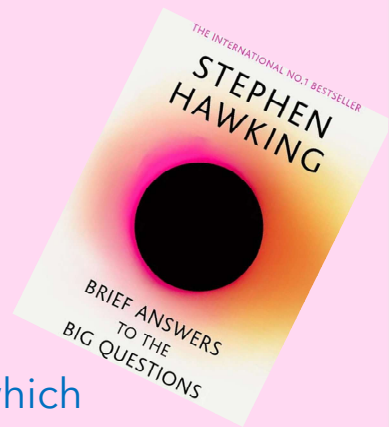
Staff Recommendations
Mr Hawkins

What is your favourite literary genre?

Science Fiction!

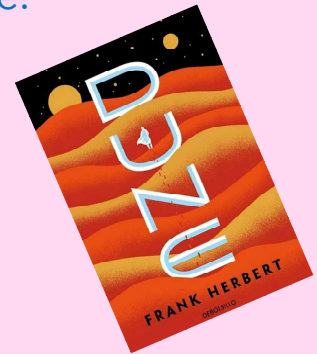
What is your favourite book and why?

Stephen Hawking - Brief Answers To The Big Questions - Intellectually challenging book which makes you think about your place in the universe.



What are three books you wish you could read again and why?

Dune - Explores destiny and survival.

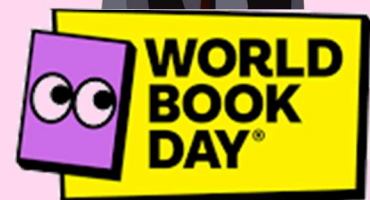


Artificial Intelligence, The complete Manual - Explores the future of AI with ethics and risks.

Rob Burrow, Too many Reasons to Live - Demonstrates extraordinary mental strength in adversity.

Who is your favourite literary character?

Hercule Poirot



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Staff Recommendations
Mr Bedi

What is your favourite literary genre?

Thrillers!

What is your favourite book and why?

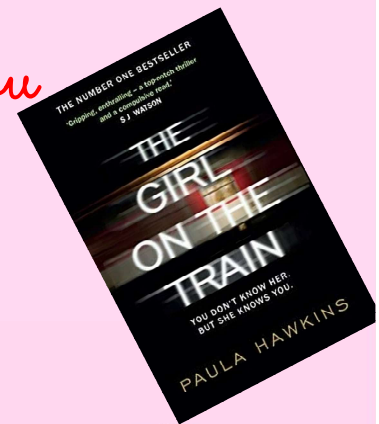
To Kill a Mockingbird- a very moving read.



What are three books you wish you could read again and why?

To Kill a Mockingbird- explained above...

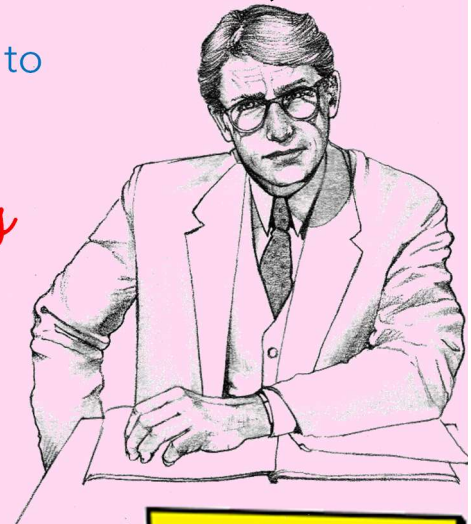
The Girl on The Train- the twist at the end!



Lord of the Flies- shows gradual descent to savagery.

Who is your favourite literary character?

Atticus Finch





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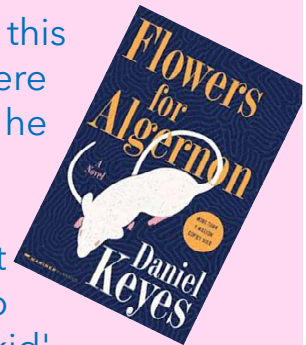
Staff Recommendations Ms Zetu

What is your favourite literary genre?

Dystopias, Science Fiction and Psychological horrors...

What is your favourite book and why?

Flowers for Algernon - Daniel Keyes. I deeply related to this book when I read it as a child. It's about a man with severe learning disabilities taking part in an experiment where he receives treatment to make him smarter and becomes smart enough that he realises just how bleak the world around him is, and thus decides to get off the treatment and continue living life with his learning disabilities. I do not have learning disabilities but having been a 'smart kid' at school, I deeply related to how the main character was realising that sometimes ignorance really is bliss.



What are three books you wish you could read again and why?

This is Going to Hurt - Adam Kay - Really good insight into the experience of working in hospitals, related to it to an extent as I have family that worked in the public sector (Although as a police officer instead), would definitely recommend to sixth formers that are considering medicine



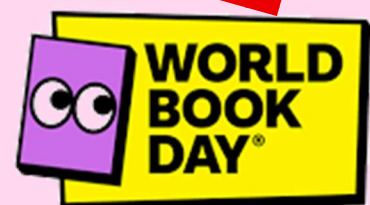
Flowers for Algernon - Daniel Keyes - Same reasons as above. Would recommend to any neurodivergent child.

1984 - George Orwell - Drew parallels between the dystopia in this book and my country's history, loved having conversations with my family about it.



Who is your favourite literary character?

Charlie Gordon from my favourite book.



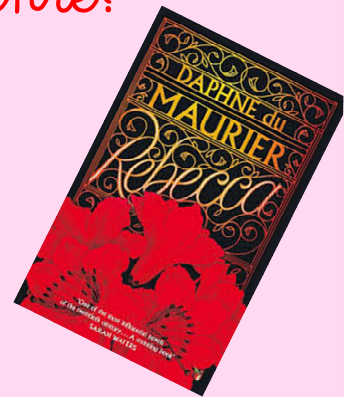
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Staff Recommendations
Mrs Begum

What is your favourite literary genre?

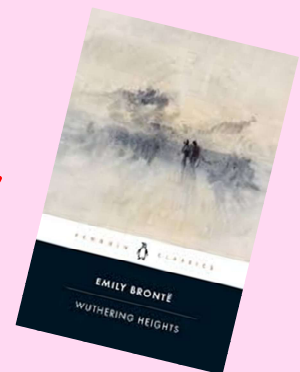
a good historical novel - 1800s - present day.
Bronte, Dickens, Trollope.



What is your favourite book and why?

Wuthering Heights for the original plot and setting.

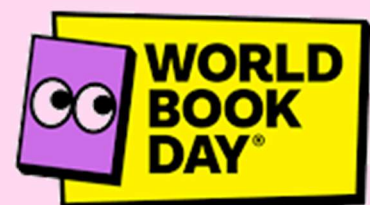
What are three books you wish you could read again and why?



Rebecca - intriguing
Wuthering Heights - so much originality
the Strand - time travel

Who is your favourite literary character?

Rebecca from Daphne Du Maurier's novel.



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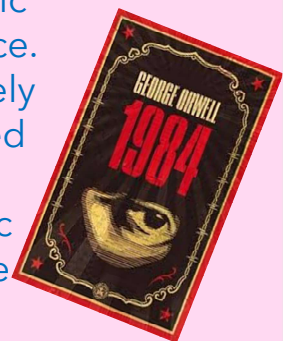
Staff Recommendations
Mr Wong

What is your favourite literary genre?

Science-fiction!

What is your favourite book and why?

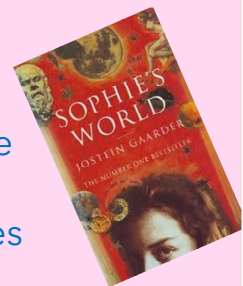
Legend of the Galactic Heroes is a Japanese science fiction epic written by Yoshiki Tanaka. Set in a distant future where humanity has colonized the galaxy, the story chronicles a prolonged war between two superpowers: the autocratic Galactic Empire and the democratic Free Planets Alliance. systemc strengths and weaknesses on both sides. Widely regarded as a classic space opera, the work is celebrated for its intellectual depth, complex characters, and sophisticated treatment of political theory within an epic narrative framework. That's why this is my most favourite sci-fi.



What are three books you wish you could read again and why?

Legend of the Galactic Heroes (by Yoshiki Tanaka) because of the reasons stated above!

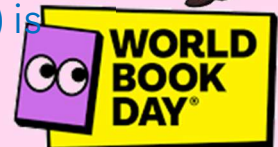
Sophie's World (by Jostein Gaarder) as this novel combines narrative suspense with intellectual instruction, presenting philosophy not as abstract theory but as an ongoing inquiry into truth, freedom, and human identity.



1984 (by George Orwell) as this novel explores themes of totalitarianism, truth, individuality, and the fragility of freedom.

Who is your favourite literary character?

Yang Wen-li (from Legend of the Galactic Heroes) is my most favourite character.





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Staff Recommendations Mr Bird

What is your favourite literary genre?

Currently historical fiction (but based on real events).

What is your favourite book and why?

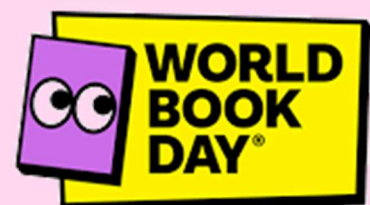
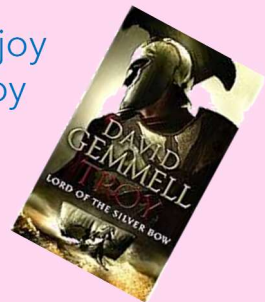
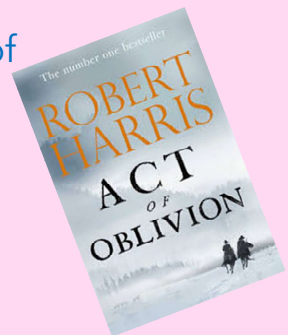
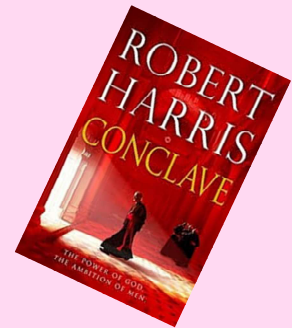
I like being reminded of historical events with a touch of fiction - sometime science fiction!

What are three books you wish you could read again and why?

Conclave, Act of Oblivion (Robert Harris) and David Gemmell's Troy series. Just waiting long enough to enjoy them for first time again! Couldn't finish Gemmell's Troy series - too gruesome but will try again!

Who is your favourite literary character?

Of late: Richard Nayler, the Royalist charged with tracking down the regicides in the aftermath of the English Civil War.



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Staff Recommendations
Mr Campbell

What is your favourite literary genre?

Crime!

What is your favourite book and why?

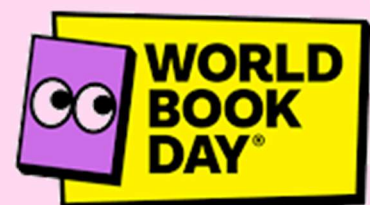
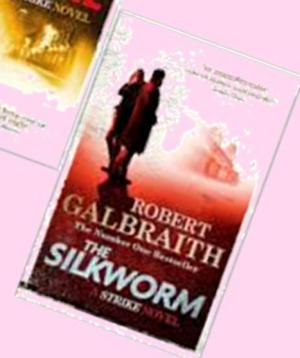
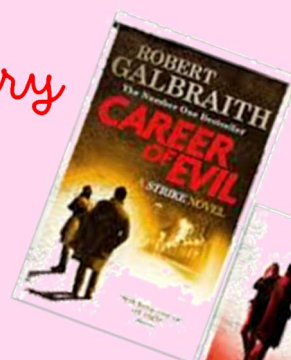
Slow Horses - unputdownable, as are the others in the series. Great characters !

What are three books you wish you could read again and why?

None. Always read something new.

Who is your favourite literary character?

Jackson Lamb / Cormoran Strike



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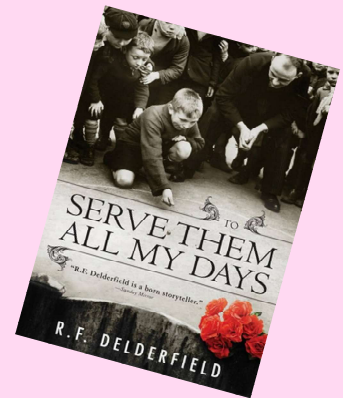
Staff Recommendations
Mr Conway

What is your favourite literary genre?

Historical/Political!

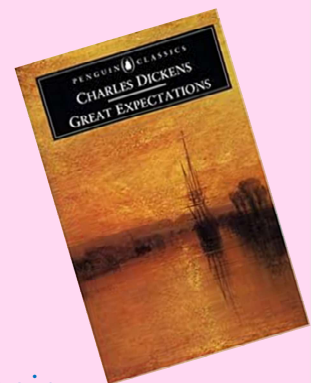
What is your favourite book and why?

To Serve Them All My Days by RF Delderfield.



What are three books you wish you could read again and why?

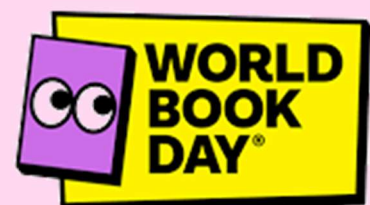
To Serve Them All My Days
Great Expectations
The Green Gauntlet



All amazing at how they build characters and weave their stories together!

Who is your favourite literary character?

David Powlett Jones (the teacher in the above novel).



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Staff Recommendations
Ms Piepdie

What is your favourite literary genre?

Thrillers!

What is your favourite book and why?

Maxime Chattam, Le Signal

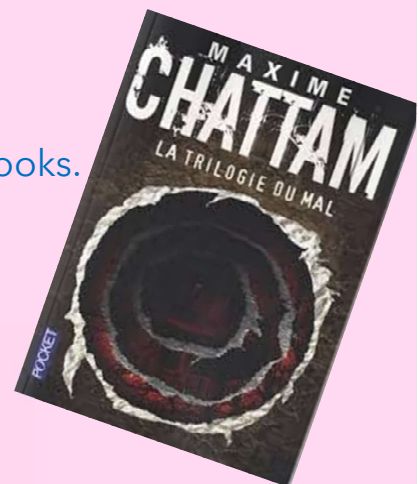
I love how written words can create real emotions, from giggles to fear!



What are three books you wish you could read again and why?

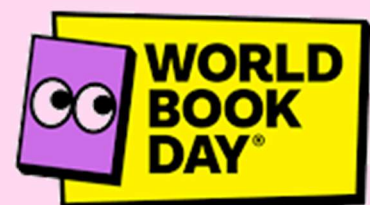
Maxime Chattam's Trilogie du Mal

I loved the character development over the 3 books.



Who is your favourite literary character?

Sherlock Holmes!



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Staff Recommendations
Mr Skibinksi

What is your favourite literary genre?

Fantasy!

What is your favourite book and why?

The Witcher series by Andrzej Sapkowski. I have met the author! He's very knowledgeable and passionate about history.

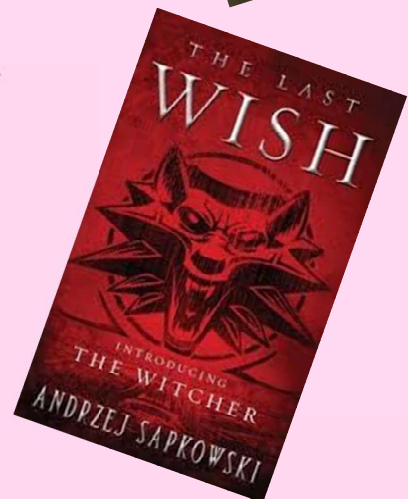
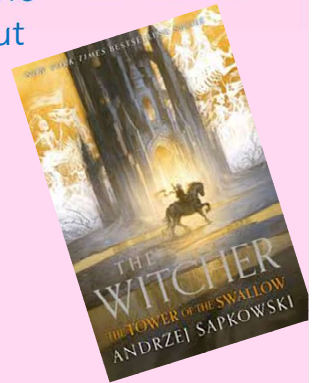


What are three books you wish you could read again and why?

Anything from the Witcher series!

Who is your favourite literary character?

Ciri from the Witcher.



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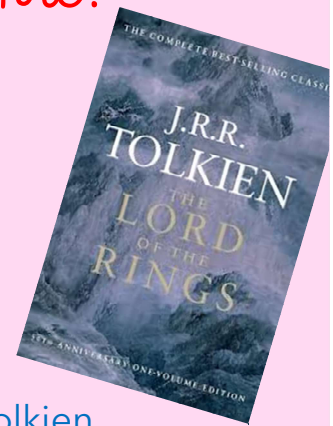
Staff Recommendations
Mr Harvey

What is your favourite literary genre?

Thrillers and crime fiction. The game is afoot!

What is your favourite book and why?

My favourite book is the Lord of the Rings by J.R.R. Tolkien
- the best thing to ever come out of Birmingham.

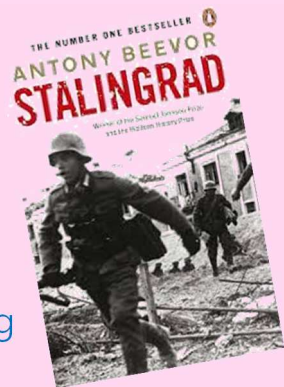


What are three books you wish you could read again and why?

1) Lord of the Rings because I want to experience the sheer wonder of following the story again, not knowing that Strider was Aragorn, the worlds and of course the songs.

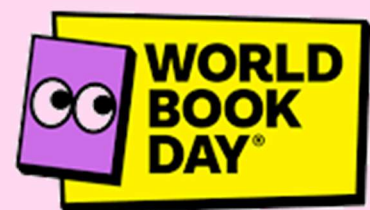
2) Slow Horses because it is the book that made me laugh the most when I read it.

3) Stalingrad by Anthony Beevor - the book that made me love history.



Who is your favourite literary character?

Gandalf the Grey!



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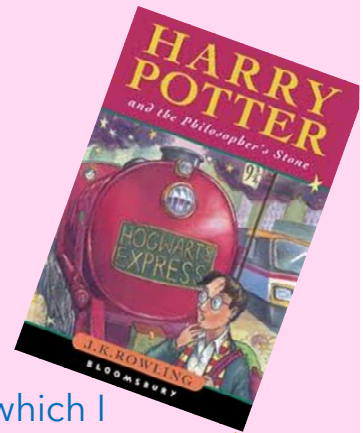
Staff Recommendations
Mr Hussain

What is your favourite literary genre?

Science fiction!

What is your favourite book and why?

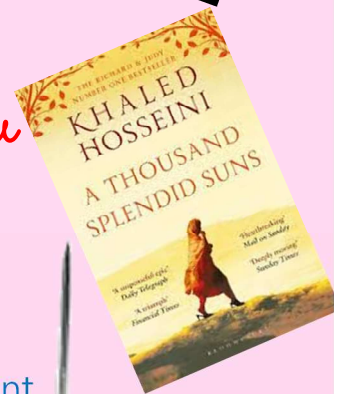
Harry Potter; first experience of an addictive book which I have read multiple times.



What are three books you wish you could read again and why?

Harry Potter - for the worldbuilding.

A Thousand Splendid Suns - an amazing and poignant portrayal of life in Afghanistan.



The Hungry Caterpillar - stone cold classic - need I say more?

Who is your favourite literary character?

Aragorn!



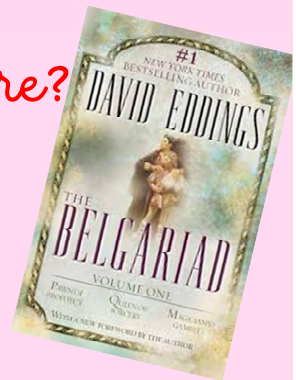
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Staff Recommendations
Ms Hurley

What is your favourite literary genre?

Fantasy fiction!



What is your favourite book and why?

The Belgariad by David Eddings - pure escapism.

What are three books you wish you could read again and why?



1. Lord of the Rings - JRR Tolkien
2. Rebecca - Daphne Du Maurier
3. The Kite Runner - Khaled Hosseini

All simply amazing!

Who is your favourite literary character?



Tasslehoff Burrfoot from the Dragonlance series of books!



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Staff Recommendations
Mrs Donoghue

What is your favourite literary genre?

psychological thriller / murder mystery.

What is your favourite book and why?

A Passage to India: E M Forster. So beautifully written.

What are three books you wish you could read again and why?

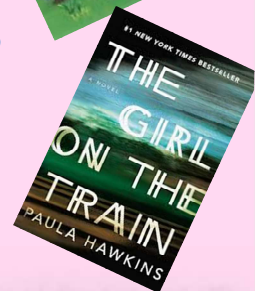
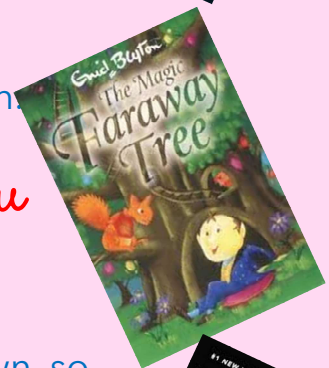
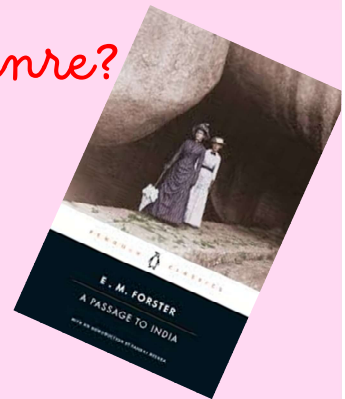
The Girl on the Train P. Hawkins- could not put it down, so read it really fast.

The Five People you meet in heaven - M Albom. Really made me think about the importance of our interactions with others

The Faraway Tree - E Blyton. Reminds me of sat reading with my mother as a child, life was so much simpler then.

Who is your favourite literary character?

Clara Dawes from Sons and Lovers - DH Lawrence. She is so different from the other characters. She is independent and does not conform with expectations of the day. She tries to rebel against society and is a political reformer.



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Staff Recommendations
Mr Dhillon

What is your favourite literary genre?

War novels.

What is your favourite book and why?

Sapiens - literally the history of who and what we are!

What are three books you wish you could read again and why?

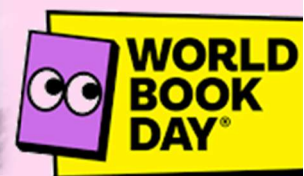
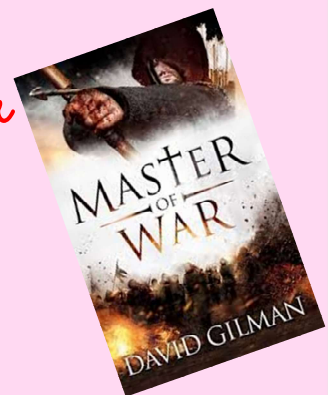
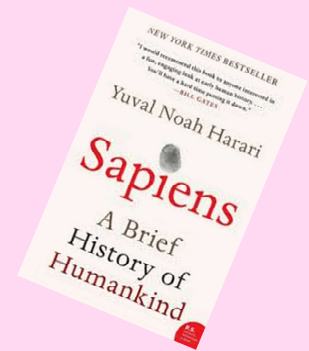
Girl with the Dragon tattoo - couldn't put it down

Master of War - the best in War novels

Brave new World - changes your outlook on current events

Who is your favourite literary character?

Thomas Blackstone (Master of War).



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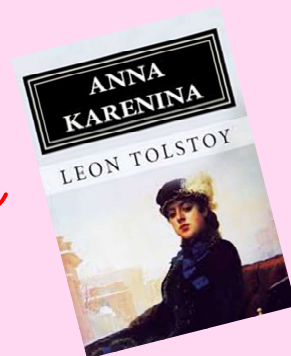
Staff Recommendations
Mrs Ward

What is your favourite literary genre?

Historical fiction!

What is your favourite book and why?

Anna Karenina - it is a manual for relationships!



What are three books you wish you could read again and why?

The Shining - so creepy, so suspenseful



Jane Eyre - just my favourite romance

100 years of Solitude - so crazy, so creative, one of a kind

Who is your favourite literary character?

Lucy Honeychurch from A Room with a View.



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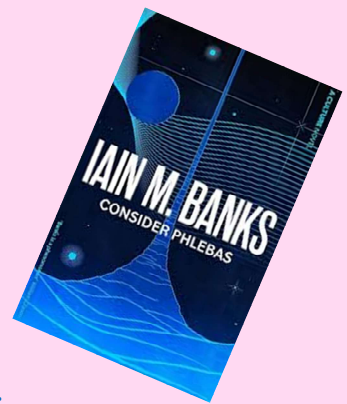
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Staff Recommendations
Mr Duck

What is your favourite literary genre?

Science Fiction.

What is your favourite book and why?



To Kill a Mockingbird – setting, subject and morality.

What are three books you wish you could read again and why?

Consider Phlebas by Iain M Banks- better than any science fiction film ever.



Fortress of Solitude by Jonathan Lethem- just a delight.

The Ministry of Truth by Dorian Lynskey- fascinating to have your relationship with and author explored

Who is your favourite literary character?

Atticus Finch.

