“At the moment that we persuade a child, any child, to cross that threshold, that magic threshold into a library, we change their lives forever, for the better.”

– Barack Obama

“Twilight” - the love story with bite.
Darren Shan, Charlie Higson, Derek Landy and many more fantastic authors.
HORROR, FANTASY, SCI-FI, ROMANCE…
There’s a book to suit every taste.
Why is our Library magazine called “THE MAGIC THRESHOLD”? Read the quote below and you have the answer.

At Annan Academy we believe in supporting and encouraging everyone to develop a life-long habit of reading books – not just for information but also for pleasure.

We hope that you will enjoy reading our magazine and are inspired to read some of the books we have reviewed here.

If you have read a good book recently and there is not yet a copy of it in our library please let us know. One of the greatest pleasures is to share a book with others and that is what this magazine is all about.

School Library - Opening Times

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‘At the moment that we persuade a child, any child, to cross that threshold, that magic threshold into a library, we change their lives forever, for the better.’

— Barack Obama

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The Library and English Department work together to promote **Reading Across The Curriculum.**

This guide includes a brief account of how the school library supports reading across the school; gives advice on how to choose a book using **B.R.I.L.L.**; and lists some interesting websites.

First Year pupils are introduced to basic Library and Information skills during regular visits to the school library with their English teacher. The **Library Skills** booklet shown here covers basic skills such as: how to find a fiction book; how to use the Dewey Decimal system to find non-fiction texts; how to use an index or contents page to find information quickly; how to use an internet search engine; how to evaluate a web site; and how to use the Library catalogue - **Searchstar.**

**READING RECORD**

The **English Department** and the **School Library** developed a **Reading Scheme** to encourage First and Second Year pupils to read regularly for pleasure.

Pupils in S1 and S2 visit the School Library regularly with their English teacher and keep track of their reading in the **Reading Record.**

For the **Bronze Award** you have to read FIVE books and complete FIVE tasks from a choice of SEVEN. The tasks include: a book review; designing a new book cover; creating a wordsearch; and writing a letter to the author.

The **Silver Award** is all about trying new books. You have to read TEN books from a choice of FIFTEEN different genres (including a wildcard option).

The **Gold Award** focuses on the writer and writer’s style. You have to read TEN books but must read at least TWO books by any author. The tasks are a bit more difficult but by this time you know what you like in a book and the reasons why certain characters and situations appeal to you.

What happens when you have completed the **Gold Award**? Hopefully you will continue to read and to share books with others. **Who knows you might even write a book review for the next issue of this magazine.**
Throughout the school year you will find displays in the school library to mark important events of local and/or international importance.

2009 marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin whose Theory of Evolution continues to cause controversy today.
It is also 150 years since his most famous work – *Origin of the Species* – was published in 1859.

Displays may also include books from a specific genre such as horror, crime, fantasy or science fiction. It is a great way to introduce you to new authors.

The display pictured here includes not only books on Poland and Polish cooking but also Polish versions of well-known novels such as *Lola Rose* by Jacqueline Wilson, *Hoot* by Carl Hiaasen and *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13 ¾* by Sue Townsend.
(See page 4 for a review in Polish!)
I decided to read this book because I knew quite a lot about scientists already, and I wanted to find out more about their work. There were also a few scientists that I hadn’t heard of before, so finding out about their work was very interesting. Here are some of the interesting things I found out while reading “Scientists and their Mind Blowing Experiments”.

1. **Aristotle**, a Greek scientist or “philosopher”, thought and proved that everything in the world had a place.

2. **Galileo** was sent to prison for his discoveries, because they disagreed with the Bible.

3. **Isaac Newton**, although he discovered many things to do with physics, didn’t really enjoy science.

4. **Michael Faraday** blew up four experiments within five months.

5. **Charles Darwin**, before his Theory of Natural Selection and Evolution, wrote a book about his pet worms.

6. **Gregor Mendel** spent four years studying the growing process of peas.

7. **Louis Pasteur** didn’t speak to his wife for six months because she didn’t like science.

8. **Marie Curie** was killed by her experiments, due to exposure to radiation.

9. **Albert Einstein** wasn’t German.

10. **Humans could be on Mars by the year 2020**, if scientists are successful in current experiments.

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**Most do Terabithii - Katherine Paterson**


**Bridge to Terabithia**

The book is about a boy who feels extremely lonely. Jess met a new girl in his class called Leslie. They became best friends. They found a special place. It was a magical forest. They called it Terabithia. Jess was so happy because he wasn’t alone and he had a best friend. After a short time Leslie died. Jess was so shocked that he couldn’t believe it. He was lonely again. He made a bridge over the river to Terabithia. Then he brought his sister over the bridge and announced her as a princess of Terabithia.
Chronicles of Ancient Darkness Book 5: 

**Oathbreaker**

by Michelle Paver

Torak, the main character, sets out for revenge against Thiazzi. Thiazzi killed Torak’s pack brother and escaped. Torak tries to track down Thiazzi and kill him. In the end Torak kills him and saves the forest from getting ruled by Thiazzi.

My favourite character is Torak as he is very brave and funny. My least favourite character is Fin Keddin. He is Torak’s godfather but all he does is stir up trouble for him. My favourite part in the story was when Torak was looking for his pack sister in the burned woods as it was an interesting part and kept me reading and not wanting to put the book down.

I thought the ending was really good but it was very short and sweet.

One of my friends recommended the book to me and he said I would like it. I am pleased he did or I probably wouldn’t have read it. This book would be good for 11-16 year olds.

I really enjoyed it and I would rate it 8/10.

(The chronicles begin with Wolf Brother.)

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The Knife of Never Letting Go

**As great as Tolkien or LeGuin**

A fantasy novel that touches your heart

The story is set in the vast country Alaglasia which is ruled by an evil king, Galbatorix. Closely escaping with their lives from the battle of burning plains, Eragon and his dragon, Saphira, travel to Hellgrind on a dangerous mission with their cousin, Roran to rescue Katrina who is engaged to Roran.

However, this is just one of the oaths he owes to many different people and races like the Elves, Varden, Dwarves, Orimis and Gladier.

This book is the third in The Inheritance Cycle and I was satisfied that it hit the high standards I had expected. The other two books were also very good although the movie *Eragon* was very disappointing. My favourite character was Gladier because he is wise but powerful and dangerous. I thoroughly enjoyed this book.

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Todd Hewitt lives in a world very different to ours. First of all, everyone can hear everyone’s thoughts so naturally there are no secrets.

Secondly, there are no girls. They all died in the war against the evil aliens that once inhabited the planet but are now extinct.

Todd hates living with people’s thoughts all around him in a constant noise. Even animals have noise so there is no escape. But then he finds an empty space, a place with no noise and discovers he’s been living in a lie and now he’ll have to run!

I thought this was a great, original book and I can’t compare it to any other story.

A great new take on Science Fiction.

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Jonathan Byers
All you need to know about all four books!

Well, what can I say about The Twilight Saga by Stephenie Meyer? Well, to me they are the best! It is the story of a forbidden love between a vampire and a human named Edward and Bella.

I have to admit that I had heard very little about the Twilight Saga before the movie, “Twilight” was released in cinemas. I thought it would be too gothic for me but I went to the cinema with a few of my friends. That was when I became obsessed with Twilight.

I have read all the books over six times! I never get bored of it.

There are four books called: Twilight, New Moon, Eclipse and Breaking Dawn. There is another book in the making called Midnight Sun. It is Edward’s point of view of Twilight. It was put on hold when it was leaked onto the internet. The author, Stephenie Meyer wanted Midnight Sun to be a surprise. The fans of the Twilight Saga also known as the “Twilighters” have begun appeals to have Midnight Sun published. I hope it is published too!

I hope you enjoy reading what I have written about all four books.

Rebecca Porter
but Edward comes to the decision to try and suck the vampire venom out of Bella’s blood. At first, he worries that he won’t be able to stop sucking Bella’s blood but he successfully takes the venom out and stop. He proves to Bella and himself that he really loves Bella.

A great book, I couldn’t stop thinking about it! 10/10

New Moon

**New Moon** is the second of the **Twilight Saga**. It is Bella’s birthday and everything is going well until the Cullens hold a party for her. Bella begins to open a present from Edward and Alice and gets a small paper cut which then turns into a big cut down her arm when Edward pushes her into a table with china on top just as Jasper is about to attack her.

After the party, Edward takes Bella into the forest and tells her he doesn’t love her anymore, he is leaving and it will be as if he never existed. He leaves her heartbroken in the middle of the forest.

Bella’s life becomes very dull. Days become weeks, weeks become months. Charlie steps in and tells Bella that he is sending her back to Phoenix. Bella, of course refuses. She promises him that she will start seeing her friends again and arranges to go and see a horror movie with Jessica. Most of the time, Bella is outside because the romantic scenes remind her of Edward and herself. After the cinema, on the way to get something to eat, Bella becomes sidetracked by a man that looks familiar. She walks towards the man then realizes that she can hear Edward’s voice in her head when she puts herself in danger. She goes back to Jessica who is so angry that she stops talking to her.

Bella starts talking to Jacob again. They ride motorbikes together which allows Bella to hear Edward. The problem is that Jacob has recently become a werewolf. On one of their many days together, Jacob promises Bella that he would take her cliff diving. When Jacob has to cancel because the pack want him Bella who was so looking forward to hearing Edward decides she will go cliff diving herself. Edward’s voice begins begging her not to jump but Bella jumps and is pulled under the water. Edward’s voice tells her not to give up but she does and says her final farewell. Suddenly something lifts her out of the water; it is Jacob. Jacob takes Bella home.

Inside waiting for her is Edward’s sister, Alice, who has the power to see the future. She explains to Bella how she saw her jump and thought she was dead. Alice told Rosalie who told Edward.

Alice later has a vision that Edward is going to ask to be killed by a Royal coven in Italy called the Volturi. Bella and Alice begin their race to stop Edward before it is too late. It becomes very close but Bella stops him. They only have a quick reunion before some of the members of the Volturi find them because Edward had planned to expose himself to the big crowd of festival celebrators. They are very close to death but are allowed to leave Italy.

Back in Forks, Charlie bans Edward from visiting Bella because of the heartache and depression he caused her but Edward sneaks through Bella’s window. They visit the rest of the Cullens because Bella wants them to vote to decide if Edward should make her a vampire. They come to the decision that Bella will be transformed after she graduates.

On the way back to Bella’s house, Edward proposes to Bella. She doesn’t believe at first but his expression gives it away. She doesn’t know what to say, so she just says yes.

**Not my favourite out of the Twilight Saga but still really good. 9/10**

Eclipse

**Eclipse** is the third book of the **Twilight Saga**. Edward and Bella are back together, Bella has to stay at home because she is grounded for her disappearance to stop Edward.

Recently in Seattle there have been a lot of
of disappearances and deaths. Before the Graduation at Forks High School, Bella realizes that the missing clothes and objects from her bedroom have been taken by James’ avenging mate, Victoria. It turns out that Victoria has created an army of Newborn vampires.

Alice has a vision of Victoria and the army appearing soon so the wolves and the Cullens join forces to destroy the army and Victoria. Edward, Bella and Jacob hide and create false trails to distract Victoria’s army. The fight is going well between the rest of the Cullens and wolves but then Victoria finds Edward and Bella. Edward quickly puts Bella as far away from Victoria as he can and Seth, one of the new werewolves, and Edward destroy both Victoria and her partner, Riley. Jacob has run away at this point at the news of how much time is left before Bella is transformed and that Edward and Bella are engaged.

Once the fight is over, the wolves have left and the Volturi have appeared to see what has happened. They leave with a warning that Bella should be transformed very soon. Edward takes Bella home to get ready to tell Charlie that they are getting married in the summer.

One of my favourites, full of action 10/10

**Breaking Dawn**

*Breaking Dawn* is the fourth and latest book of the *Twilight Saga.* It is near Edward and Bella’s marriage and Edward has treated Bella to a new car. The wedding goes well and Edward and Bella leave to go their honeymoon, Bella has no idea where they are going. Edward takes Bella to an island in South America called Isle Esme, a gift to Esme from Carlisle. Before the wedding, Edward promises Bella that they will go through all the human experiences before Bella is transformed.

After only two weeks at Isle Esme, Bella begins to be sick a lot and realizes that she is pregnant: she even has a small bump. Carlisle tells Edward to bring Bella back quickly—the baby is dangerous and could kill her. It then goes to Jacob’s point of view; he receives the news about Bella and leaves the pack. Seth and his sister, Leah, join him. They no longer hear the other members of the pack’s thoughts.

After only a few days Bella accidentally drops a cup full of blood and reflexively reaches down. The baby’s placenta detaches and Bella is dying. The baby turns out to be a half-human, half-vampire girl, Bella names Renesmee. Edward delivers Renesmee and gives his venom to Bella thus transforming her. Jacob leaves feeling grief knowing that Bella is now his enemy but when he sees Renesmee he feels something different. Bella awakens to her new body, now a strong, beautiful newborn vampire. Everything is going well until Alice has a vision of the future and runs away with Jasper. Edward tells everyone that the Volturi are coming back to destroy the Cullens for creating an immortal child. What the Volturi don’t know is Renesmee is able to control her thirst for blood and can grow, rapidly. Vampires are trapped in the same body and age forever. The remaining Cullens call all the people they know to witness when the Volturi come. Bella finds out she has a gift of shielding things and Renesmee has the gift to show her memories in her head by touching people on the neck with her palm.

When the Volturi finally arrive, Carlisle steps forward and begins to explain about Renesmee and Bella. As the Volturi gather to decide whether or not they will destroy the Cullens, Alice and Jasper appear with two other people. One of them appears to be half human, half vampire like Renesmee. He explains how he is able to control his thirst and still eat human food. The Volturi leave with no excuse to destroy the Cullens. Edward and Bella finally get to spend time together without thinking of the Volturi.

This is my favourite book, and I so hope this isn’t the last. I want to find out what happens to Renesmee! 10/10
This story is set in America in and around Oakvale High. Phoebe is a Goth who, against her judgement, falls in love with a zombie. All over the country, teenagers are coming back from the dead. Tommy Williams, the boy she falls in love with, joins the football team, along with living students, Adam Layman, Pete Martinsburg and T.C Stavis. Adam is a friend of Phoebe’s and is secretly in love with her. Tommy takes Phoebe to the Haunted House, where some of the zombies live. There they meet Karen, Evan, Sylvia, Takayuki and Mall, who are all “living impaired”, or dead. Phoebe also sees an old friend, Collette, who drowned in the local pond.

Soon afterwards an assembly is held to tell people about the Hunter Foundation, a place that hopes to understand “differently biotic people” or the living dead. Phoebe, Adam and Margi sign up to help at the foundation. They discover many interesting things about the lives of the dead.

Phoebe discovers a blog written by Tommy and shows it to the people at the foundation.

A few weeks later, Pete Martinsburg gives into his hatred of the “dead kids”, and kills Evan with a shovel. Pete and T.C go on a rampage, planning to kill all the zombies. Tommy asks Phoebe to go to the Homecoming dance, even though some of the living people disagree with their relationship. Adam almost reveals his true feelings for Phoebe.

After the dance, they all go to the Haunted House for a party. Pete shows up, planning to kill all the zombies. He aims to shoot Tommy, but accidentally kills Adam. While Adam is lying in Phoebe’s arms, she tells him that she loves him. Now, because he is loved, he comes back as a zombie.

I think the scariest part of the story is where you discover that Takayuki only has half a face. It wasn’t really that scary, it was just surprising.

The writer could have made it scarier by describing the gory details of the characters.

There could have been more tension in the build up to important events, such as Evan’s death.

This is by far the best book I have read for a very long time. It is exactly my sort of book because it contains humour, tragedy and fear.

Look out for the sequel - which is due out this summer.
Comparison: Book versus Film: The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian by C.S. Lewis—Report by Kirsten Braidwood

Prince Caspian: The Return to Narnia was written in 1949 and published in 1951. It is the second book written by C. S. Lewis, but is the fourth book to be read if you read the series in the recommended order. Walden Media also made it into a film, making it a sequel to the film The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. Prince Caspian: The Return to Narnia seemed too long to the filmmakers, so they cut off the last bit and made it just Prince Caspian. It was released in cinemas in the UK on 26 June 2008.

I went to see the film with a friend after the summer holidays had begun and I enjoyed it. The only surprise I received was when I read the book around half of the way into the summer. I had read the other books in the recommended order, so I had already read The Magician’s Nephew, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe and The Horse and his Boy. To my surprise, Prince Caspian is described vastly different in the book to how he looks in the film. In the book version, Prince Caspian is a 13 year old heir to King Miraz of Narnia. However in the film he is played by a 22 year old character that has dark hair. Ben Barnes was only cast as Caspian because the book says that Caspian is around Peter’s age and they had to find an actor that looked around the same age as William Moseley. Most of the actors in the film are older than they are meant to be in the book although that was expected as a large majority of the characters are children and they will grow up faster than the characters do due to the large amount of time in between the films as they are released.

C. S. Lewis wrote the books well and I really enjoyed reading them although some of the books were better than others. Prince Caspian was good even though the book was different from the film but I would read them all over again because of how good they are. If you ever consider reading them, do yourself a favour and read them in the right order. The way that the films are being made is the order they were made, not the order they’re meant to be read.

The Hunger Games

by Suzanne Collins

Every year twenty-four teenagers are chosen by lottery to enter a TV show called The Hunger Games. A boy and a girl are chosen from each of the twelve districts to fight to the death for the chance to become famous. With no winner in the last thirty years from District 12, this year’s combatants need to fight hard.

Katniss volunteers to take her sister’s place so she becomes the girl from District 12 and the boy is a baker named Peeta. Even though he falls for Katniss he still has to kill her—or does he? A surprise change to the rules brings new hope.

This book was recommended to me by a friend and is a good read.

Once you’ve read the first book you’ll be desperate for the second book to come out!

Jamie Wilson
The Stuff of Nightmares

by Malorie Blackman

The Stuff of Nightmares is one of the scariest books I’ve read.
The story is about a boy named Kyle who pops in and out of people’s heads to see their worst nightmares.
Kyle himself has a troubled life. His mother has left him and his dad because of the way his dad treats her. Kyle is going on a school trip to see a play in the city when the train his class is taking crashes. Most of his friends are hurt and need urgent help but no one is coming and the train is dangling off the edge of a cliff.
Somehow Kyle is able to pop into people’s heads and see their night-
mares. First he sees his best friend Steve’s nightmare which freaks him out. Is it real? Will this happen to him? The other nightmares that follow include ones of his other friends and also strangers on the train. The scary nightmares feature death, the devil, a civil war with acid rain and of being alone in the world forever. Are these nightmares real? Have they happened already? Or will they happen?
In the end everything becomes clear to Kyle. He used to believe that he was the only person to have scary nightmares and that everyone else had a normal life, but was he wrong!

Kate Suttie

The book is amazing. As soon as I read the first page I wanted to read the next book. The comedy fits in all the right places and adds to the fun and dangerous adventure. With loads of magical and fist pounding mayhem this story will smack you right in the face as a marvellous book.
A few people had read the book before me and recommended it and if they hadn’t I would have missed out on an amazing adventure.

Skulduggery Pleasant

“Hugely enjoyable -a thrill-a-minute adventure.”
“It’s exciting, pacy, nicely handled and fun.”
“Reading this book is like riding a rollercoaster.”
“A rip-roaring adventure.”

I have just recently finished the book and have moved on to Skulduggery Pleasant: Playing with Fire. Also a third book has been published called Skulduggery Pleasant: The Faceless Ones.

By Lewis Scott
Vampire Mountain is a very descriptive book set in the mountain of the vampires, Vampire Mountain. Mr. Crespley and his young assistant Darren Shan (along with two little people) are heading to an annual ceremony in the private sanctuary of the vampires. Little did they know that they have company - the evil, cold-blooded Vampaneze. When they arrive at Vampire Mountain they make many new friends but there is trouble ahead. Harkat Mulds (one of the little people or Lefty) has a message for the Princes: the Vampaneze Lord is coming.

He is the one who threatens to destroy the whole Vampire race. But there is more. Mr. Crespley needs to go to the Princes to give a reason for blooding Darren but there isn’t one. Darren then has to go through the trials. Can he do it?

Read the book to find out.
See what you can do at: www.wordle.net

RUNEMARKS
by Joanne Harris

HOST
by Stephanie Meyer

The TWILIGHT SAGA
by Stephanie Meyer

QUANTUM OF SOLACE
and other stories
by Ian Fleming
Numbers is a book set in London about a young girl called Jem, but Jem isn’t an ordinary girl. When she looks into people’s eyes she can see the day when they are going to die. When Jem meets a boy called Spider they get seen running away from a terrorist attack on the London Eye so they run away together but Spider’s number is getting closer. Will Jem be able to stop it or will she find that you can’t avoid death?

Numbers is a fantastically written book by Rachel Ward and I would personally recommend reading it.

10/10

Jessica Sanderson

The Number Devil
by Hans Magnus Enzensberger

The Number Devil is a book about Maths which gives you easy ways to solve problems. I enjoyed it very much; it gave me a lot of new information on Maths but I don’t think I’ll remember it all. It isn’t the kind of book you would pick up and read for hours on end, so I found it quite hard to get into.

Robert, a boy who hates Maths and his teacher, has strange dreams. He either dreams about fish or things he really wants, until the Number Devil comes along. The Number Devil, Teplotaxl, enters twelve of Robert’s dreams and helps him understand Maths more by using very strange methods. Over the course of the book, Robert learns more and more about Maths and ways to do things easily. It also helps Robert in class, and makes the boring problems more exciting. In the end, Robert gets to go to a party with all the Number Devils and gets made into a Number Devil himself.

I really enjoyed this book; I like maths so it wasn’t boring for me but even if you don’t like maths but love reading, it’s a great book for you to choose. This is a must-read for all mathematicians!

India Rome

Ever wondered what James Bond was like as a teenager? Charlie Higson has the answers to all your questions.

By Royal Command
by Charlie Higson

“Would have made Ian Fleming proud.”

“More action, more demented crime and more flesh-crawling deaths than ever before.”

When I read the first book about the young James Bond in “Silverfin” by Charlie Higson, I was gob-smacked at how good it was so I have read my way through all five.

“By Royal Command” is the latest in the series of the books.

At the start, James Bond finds himself in a life-threatening, limb-breaking, adrenaline-pumping mission to rescue his drunken bully.
Later on James falls in love with his housemaid at Eton. Then there is a plot to kill the king, a psycho Irish communist killer, and a painful secret in the book.

This is an amazing book!

Lewis Scott

The adventures begin in Silverfin.
The Medici Seal is another gripping, fantastic book by the Carnegie medal-winner author, Theresa Breslin.

It begins in 1502, with a young boy fighting for his life in a treacherous river, which was taking him to his death. Then after he falls over a waterfall, the boy is saved and brought back to life by Leonardo Da Vinci. Quickly, the boy makes up a name for himself, settling on the first thing that came to mind: Matteo, because he was too afraid to tell of his past.

Matteo had jumped into the river to escape from the murderous hands of Sandino. Matteo was a gypsy, who could do anything to survive, therefore he could steal and pick-pocket. Sandino had wanted Matteo to steal something for him, The Medici Seal, and Matteo did so, but then decided not to give it to Sandino seeing what an awful man Sandino really was.

Matteo joins Leonardo and his friends, hoping it would take him further from Sandino but instead it only takes him closer. The book begins with Matteo being age ten, and ends with him being eighteen. The book follows Matteo through his adolescence, revealing more of his true past as it goes on. As well as still being chased by Sandino, but for different reasons other than the seal Matteo still holds on to, Matteo gets caught up in other schemes with Leonardo and his friends.

There is murder, rape, battles and very exciting twists, especially one at the end which changes Matteo’s life forever and says a lot about his past that not even he knew about. Although the story follows Matteo and his adventurous, thrilling life, it also says a lot about Leonardo Da Vinci, on his life and famous paintings. I would definitely recommend this book to anyone. It’s not really aimed at a certain crowd, I believe anyone could enjoy it, teenagers or adults. The twist and plots in it really keep you on the edge of your seat. I really like the huge one near the end, revealing lots about Matteo’s past, but you will have to read it to find out what it is.

All in all it is an extremely good book.
Ivy is set in Victorian London, and follows the life of a girl called Ivy. Ivy’s mother and father died when she was young. She went to live with her aunt, uncle and her four cousins.

In Part 1, we find out about how she was put into school by “charity wumen” and was thrown out for being “too artistically natured”. Ivy is spotted in Lambeth Market Place by Carroty Kate, who is actually a member of a gang of criminals. Ivy is taken back to “the secret place”, where she lives, behind a scary curtain, for almost three years.

While at The Secret Place, Ivy helps Carroty Kate with “skinning”. This involves Ivy luring rich children into dark alleys with sweets or toys, where Carroty Kate takes their clothes and valuables, which are taken back to Fing Nolan, the Crow and the Muck Snipe. We later discover that the Crow and Carroty Kate were arrested by the police during a skin, and Ivy goes back to find her aunt and uncle’s house.

In Part 2, we are introduced to Oscar Aretino Frosdick, a rich artist who lives on Cheyne Walk, Chelsea, the opposite side of London to Ivy. He decides that he needs a “stunner”, a muse, to model and inspire his paintings. He finds Ivy in Lambeth Market, and decides that she is perfect for the job. He sends his mother to find her and give her the job. His mother takes an instant dislike to Ivy, but gives her the job to get back in touch with his son’s good graces.

While waiting to be taken to a manor house to do a painting of “Ophelia”, Ivy is locked in Oscar’s neighbour’s house by his mother and is almost poisoned. She is discovered by Fing Nolan and his gang, and it is after this that she discovers that Carroty Kate is a man. She is driven to the manor house by her cousin Jared, and it is during a period of modelling that Oscar proposes to Ivy.

In Part 3, the Year Ten class of 2004 are studying pre-Raphaelite painters like Oscar. We discover that to Oscar, marriage was just a way to keep Ivy as a model. Victorian times were much more elegant, but Ivy’s circumstances were unfortunate.

By Charley Swale

The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips
by Michael Morpurgo

The story starts off with a Grandma writing to her grandson Michael ‘Boowie’ and she gives him her diary from when she was a little girl. Her diary was set in World War 2. She and her family had to move house so that the soldiers could practise for the D-day landings. Tips, her cat, goes missing and she meets up with Adie the American soldier. Tips comes home when Adie leaves to go back to America.

In the end Bowie meets his grandma and Adie after they got married in America.

By Alex Bauld

The Merrybegot also by Julie Hearn.
**The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas**

The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas is about a boy called Bruno. His dad was in the army and worked in a concentration camp in the 2nd World War. They lived on the other side of the wire fence from the concentration camp.

Bruno didn’t know anything about his dad’s job or the concentration camp.

While Bruno is exploring he meets a boy, Shmuel, who lives on the other side of the fence. They secretly become good friends and go to see each other every day.

One day Bruno wears striped pyjamas and climbs under the fence. He and Shmuel go exploring together but get caught up in a march and get put into a gas shower.

This book is really good but the ending is very sad.

Shannon Murray

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**Broken Soup**

Broken Soup by Jenny Valentine is very good. It is about a girl called Rowan who has more responsibility than most other girls her age. She has to look after her little sister, Stroma, single-handedly. This doesn’t leave much time for her friends or being a normal teenager.

Rowan is out getting the groceries when a good-looking boy with an American accent presses a negative of a photo that has been dropped on the floor into her hand. She is sure it is a big mistake but when she looks around to say this and ask the boy what it is, he is lost in the crowd, nowhere to be seen. Rowan cannot lose her place in the queue as if she doesn’t get the shopping then no one will and there is no food left in the house.

Then she finds out that Bee from her school saw everything and something makes her very curious. She makes a best friend out of Bee and sets out on a mission to find out her unanswered questions: Who was this boy and why was he so insistent that the negative belongs to her?

Ashleigh Bell

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**Lucky Star**

Lucky Star is about a 14 year-old boy called Mouse, who is an “emo”. Mouse has been excluded from school because he got caught graffiti-ing on the school walls. After visiting his social worker, he goes around spraying his trademark mouse face on the walls of the shops, when he witnesses a girl almost running over a dog on her bike. He goes to help, volunteers to take the dog to the vet’s and becomes friends with the girl, Cat. He takes the dog home and calls him Lucky.

Mouse lives on the Eden Estate, known as the worst estate in London. His mum helps run The Phoenix, a day centre for recovering drug addicts. Mouse finds out that Lucky really belongs to the most dangerous man on the Eden Estate, Frank Scully. After this, The Phoenix is burnt to the ground by drug addicts, who don’t approve of the work they do.

The Phoenix is re-built, but only a few days after it re-opens, Frank Scully tries to kill Mouse’s mum, and is sent to prison. Mouse and Cat start a “Dealers Out” campaign, hoping to expose the main drug dealers on the Eden Estate. They go to the flats of nine well-known dealers, but get caught by the police during a raid. They are taken to the police station, where he finds out that his social worker is Cat’s dad, and that Cat is only twelve. Mouse goes back to school, and eventually makes friends with Cat again.

I liked this book because it’s believable and contains humour, sadness and scariness.

Charley Swale
This book is about a princess whose life has been turned upside down but her life is getting that little bit better step by step very slowly. She now has a boyfriend, her best friend's big brother, Michael.

After finding out that she is a princess, Mia has to fulfil her duties by spending her whole Christmas over in Genovia. She was devastated because it was to be her first Christmas with the one she loves but she can't be with him.

When she gets there she has lots of things to do
Back home she arranges her first ever date with Michael but her grandmother has other plans for Mia: she is to go to the Black and White Ball with another man.

My favourite character is Mia because she has a very different lifestyle and is a princess but she still gets hassle at school. My least favourite character is Lana because she thinks highly of herself and is snobby.

I would recommend this book if you like reading diaries and getting gossip at the same time.
The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian

By Sherman Alexie

I chose this book because my teacher recommended it.

The book begins with Arnold explaining that he was born with “water on the brain”, but the real name for it is hydrocephalus. This means that he has extraordinary physical features to his body like: 42 teeth, poor eyesight and frequent seizures.

His family, like many on Native American reservations, is poor. This is described in graphic detail when his dad has to shoot his dog, Oscar, to avoid paying the veterinary bills. Arnold's life is brightened up by his only human friend, Rowdy. Rowdy is always being described by Arnold as “the toughest kid on the Rez”. Rowdy has an abusive home life: his father is a heavy drinker and is constantly beating up him and his mother. Arnold then transfers to Reardan High, a sparkling high school, full of wealthy white kids, with a computer room and chemistry labs. He’s the only Indian — if you don’t count the school mascot.

Amand Connor

Early on, Arnold fears being beaten up by the jocks because he is an Indian. This is not the case as he is considered hard, and soon earns himself a place on the school basketball team. However, all the kids in the Rez consider him to be a traitor, and when both basketball teams meet to play, a full scale riot almost breaks out. When Arnold finally realizes that he is smarter than most of the white kids that he goes to school with, he wins the heart of Penelope, the most popular girl from school.

This is an absolutely great book.

A MUST READ!

Dear Linzi Glass,

I’m writing to say that I really enjoyed your book ‘Ruby Red’. I liked that it was based around real events in the Soweto riots.

Ruby was a character that wasn’t afraid to like the Afrikaans, but she knew her friends would tease her about it. I liked her bravery. I didn’t like the ending very much because it didn’t tell what happened to Julian or her mother.

Apart from that it was really good book and thanks for writing it.

Yours truly,

Rebecca Lange

Annan Academy
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27th March 2009
Red Tears
by Joanna Kenrick

Red Tears:
This book is about a teenager, Emily, who is studying for her GCSEs. Everyone thinks Emily can cope; they expect her to.
But soon Emily struggles. Her “friends” have turned against her and have set up a hate campaign. With no one to turn to Emily starts to self-harm.
She manages to hide her problem for a while but soon things go too far.

I found the story compelling, and upsetting in some places. The author described the feelings of the character really well.
The story was really powerful and well written. You can get a better idea of what happens in the mind of a self-harmer and can understand a little better how it feels.
I really enjoy reading books by Joanna Kenrick and I think she describes the feelings very well in the rest of her books. She is very talented at putting herself into different positions and I hope she writes more.
Laura Allison

You can find further information, and insight into the issues raised in this novel in the Non-Fiction section of the school library. See: Self Harm at 362.2 and Self Esteem at 158.

TH1RTEEN R3ASONS WHY!
by Jay Asher

I chose this book because I liked the cover basically and when my teacher told me what it was about, it seemed like my kind of book and I really wanted to read it.
The book is about a guy called Clay Jenkins who comes home from school to find a box full of tapes on his doorstep. He found out that they are from Hannah Baker who killed herself a few weeks before.

There are seven tapes in the box. He puts the first tape in the player and is in shock because he can’t believe that she is speaking because she is dead. She explains that the tapes contain a reason and a name: she explains why this person contributes to her death. The tapes are passed on to the people on the list and they have to be passed on so that everyone that is on the tapes knows how they hurt her.
Clay listens to the tapes. In the box there is also a map. Hannah has marked places on the map where the people who hear the tapes can visit to see the place that the event happened.
Clay finds out that he is on cassette five. You see Clay was in love with Hannah, but he didn’t think she felt the same. On the tape he finds out that she liked him back but she was afraid of saying anything, so at a party they get a little close, they kiss and cuddle but then Hannah has a sort of fit and makes Clay go away.
I don’t want to spoil the ending for you so I won’t tell it. I liked this book because it made me think about my life more, and even the smallest of things could affect someone.
Rebecca Lange
Robert Burns was born on the 25th January 1759 in Alloway, Ayrshire, Scotland. He lived in a house built by his father until he was 7, they then moved to Mount-Oliphant Farm in southeast Alloway. In 1788 he moved to Dumfriesshire and wrote some of his most famous poems here; one of them being Tam O’ Shanter.

Burns could read French and a little bit of Latin. He also read a lot of Shakespeare, Milton and Dryden’s writings which inspired him to write poems and songs.

Burns moved to Dumfries in 1788 when he was 29. When he moved here he lived at Ellisland Farm. Some of his nature poems were inspired by the scenery there. Two years later, in 1791, he moved to a street called Bank Street; this was known as the “Stinkin Vennel”. Then in 1793 he moved, along with his family, to a house in Mill Street which has since been re-named Burns Street. He also lived in what is now Café Royal where he famously engraved his name in a window.

Burns died in 1796 when he was just 37. He was buried with full military honours on the same day as his son was born. The little boy was called Maxwell.

Burns was made famous by his poems and songs. The very first poem that he wrote was called “O Once I Loved” and it was written in 1774.

In 1781 he travelled to a nearby town called Irvine where he met a sailor called Richard Brown. Brown read Burns’ poems and encouraged him to publish them in a book. Burns said yes because he thought that the money he made from this would give him enough to travel to Jamaica where he thought he would make his fortune. The book was such a success in Irvine that he decided to stay here and make money.

Burns wrote lots of poems and songs including: A Red Red Rose; Auld Lang Syne; To A Mouse; My Father Was A Farmer; Tam O’ Shanter; To A Haggis; To A Louse; Bonnie Jean; The Cotter’s Saturday Night; The Merry Muses Of Caledonia

Robert Burns

You have found an author you like and read all of his / her books. Now what do you do? Why not give www.literature-map.com a try.

Type in the name of your favourite author and the computer will give you an assortment of other authors you might find interesting. The closer another author’s name is to your original the more likely you are to enjoy that author’s books too.

Robert Burns

2009 – the year of HOMECOMING

Bethany Skinner
WORLD BOOK DAY 2009
Thursday 5th March

During WORLD BOOK DAY 2009 members of staff were books for the day. Mr Asher is pictured here proudly showing off his book title - Jesus: The Teenage Years.

S1 pupils had to match up as many book titles with teachers as they could.

The library also held a sale of books. At only 20p a book, there were lots of bargains to be had and no shortage of interest as you can see from these photographs.

SHAKESPEARE’S BIRTHDAY - Friday 23rd April 2009

Mrs Turner helped us to remember and to celebrate Shakespeare’s 445th birthday by putting quotes from his works around the school. Can you guess whose door had the following wise words upon it?

Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon ’em.

We asked our parents what books they read at school. Here are some of the books they remembered.

As well as Animal Farm and Nineteen Eighty-Four by George Orwell, Catch 22 by Joseph Heller, The Wasp Factory by Iain Banks, Tess of the d’Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy, and To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee, our parents remember studying lots of poetry and Shakespeare. Of course, they also say they had to do a lot more homework than we do.
We hope you’ve enjoyed reading our Library Magazine as much as we’ve enjoyed writing it.

The following pupils contributed to this magazine:
Laura Allison, Max Anderson, Alex Bauld, Ashleigh Bell, Kirsten Braidwood, Jonathan Byers, Abbie Clark, Amand Connor, Josh Gartly, Rowane Glendinning, Megan Golding, Samantha Irving, Rebecca Lange, Melissa Muir, Shannon Murray, Rebecca Porter, Ania Pospiech, India Rome, Jessica Sanderson, Lewis Scott, Bethany Skinner, Kate Suttie, Charley Swale, Craig Taylor and Jamie Wilson.

Special thanks to:
Mrs B Turner, the school librarian, for her support throughout; Mrs C Johnston, our English teacher; Mr Brand, Mr Paterson and Mr Mallon for the use of G30; and senior pupils Katie Burns, Amy Hotchkiss and Amy Wright (pictured below) for all their hard work as Pupil Librarians. We wish the girls good luck as they leave Annan Academy.

“Outside of a dog, a book is man’s best friend. Inside of a dog it’s too dark to read.”

GROUCHO MARX

Join us again soon to read about more new and exciting titles to be found in our library!