



THE STAMP

LIBRARY
NEWSLETTER
SUMMER 2

Welcome to the first ever edition of **The Stamp**. In this new half-termly newsletter you will find updates about all things library and book related. We are now looking for contributions for September's newsletter so please submit your ideas/reviews/facts to the library desk before September 7th 2018. So get writing this summer!

"When trouble strikes,
head to the library.
You will either be able
to solve the problem,
or simply have something
to read as the world
crashes down around you"

- Lemony Snicket



Y7 LIBRARY CLUB

Year 7 Library Club meets every Friday lunchtime, so if you would like to take part in group games and book-related activities, why not come along and join us.

STUCK FOR A BOOK?

BookMatch could help!

Fill in a short questionnaire and we will hand-pick you a selection of books individually matched to your interests and personality! Ask at the library desk for more details.



200 YEARS OF FRANKENSTEIN...

Can you believe that it has been 200 years since *Frankenstein* was published? Written by Mary Shelley when she was just 18 years old, this moving gothic horror tells of a young scientist called Victor Frankenstein who creates a 'monster' in an experiment using parts from dead corpses and brings it to life. Mary wrote the story when a group of writers were trapped indoors during a bad winter and they had a contest to write ghost stories. It has been incredibly popular since 1818 and made into many films and theatre productions.

DID YOU KNOW? Many people mistakenly call the monster Frankenstein, but it was nameless!

CONTROVERSY! Did Mary Shelley really write *Frankenstein*? p5

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Celebrate Classics Week

A week of book-themed games and activities

On the week beginning 11th June, we will be holding a series of activities during lunchtime based on 5 books. Look out for the posters for more info!

ALICE IN
WONDERLAND

TREASURE
ISLAND

FRANKENSTEIN

THE SECRET
GARDEN

THE JUNGLE BOOK

NEW RELEASES AVAILABLE SOON!



Are you potty about all things Harry Potter?

HP Club meets every other Monday after school in the library until 4pm. Activities so far have included games, quizzes, potion making, edible spiders and Quidditch. Places are limited so please ask at the library for details!

ON A SCALE FROM ONE TO TEN, HOW OBSESSED WITH HARRY POTTER ARE YOU?
ABOUT NINE AND THREE QUARTERS.

BOOK INTO FILM NEWS!



The Young Adult novel **The Darkest Minds** by Alexandra Bracken will be released as a film in September. It tells the story of Ruby, a girl growing up after a mysterious disease kills most of America's children. When she and other survivors develop frightening new abilities, they are sent to a State rehabilitation camp to suppress the very powers that may be linked to their future survival.

The film adaptation of **The Knife of Never Letting Go** by award winning author Patrick Ness is under production under its trilogy title **Chaos Walking**. The film will star Tom Holland and Daisy Ridley and is out on 1st March 2019! The story is set in a future colony world where all living creatures can hear each other's thoughts in a stream of images, words, and sounds called Noise. Todd Hewitt has been brought up to believe that a viral germ has killed all the women and unleashed Noise, but when he comes upon a patch of silence he soon discovers the source of the silence: a girl named Viola Eade. Things aren't what they seem...



The second film based upon J.K. Rowling's book **Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them** is out on 16th November 2018. **The Crimes of Grindelwald** continues where the first film left off. With Grindelwald escaped from custody and gathering followers, Albus Dumbledore enlists Newt Scamander to help defeat him. Starring Johnny Depp and Eddie Redmayne.

Mary Poppins is back on 21st December 2018! The sequel to the original 1964 film based upon the character from the books by R.L. Travers is set 25 years later in 1930s London. Jane and Michael Banks are now grown up and Michael is still living in Cherry Tree Lane with his three children. When he suffers a loss, Mary Poppins arrives to help.



THE CREATIVE PAGES

Lost

By Megan Eaves

There once was a curious girl, who came across a wood,
The path ahead had a thick layer of dark brown mud.
She decided to explore this place on such a lovely, sunny day,
She had no idea what terrible things were heading her way.
As she wandered further and further towards her doom,
It became cold and all she could see was gloom.
Walking into the jagged trees, her body filled with pain,
Lost in the wood she became.

Eerie whispers echoed in her head,
Oh, how she longed for her cosy, warm bed.
Venturing deeper into the gloom, she knew this was the end,
How long in this place would she have to spend?
Exhausted, she found a spot to sleep for the night,
Not knowing she would never find her way out and see the light.
Trapped in the wood, she became
All that remains is a single bloodstain.
Legend has it her ghost still lingers, trapped in the wood,
Waiting to catch whoever or what spilt her blood.

Unlucky by Anonymous

Smashing a mirror with your face in it.
Or a white moth in your house.
Opening an umbrella inside your home,
These things have happened to me.

Why does the world hate me?
Have I done something wrong?
But I get back luck all day
All day long

Crossing on the stairs,
Yes I've done that.
I shouldn't have, but...
There's no turning back.



The Spider

by Freddie Newton

The spider didn't mean any harm,
It just wanted to play.
If only it weren't the victim of fear,
Every single day.

It sought the refuge of gaps and crevices,
To serve as its humble abode.
And if ever it were glimpsed by human eyes,
It was forced to 'hit the road'.

The spider didn't mean any harm,
It didn't mean to frighten the boy.
He was just minding his own business,
Playing with his bulldozer toy.

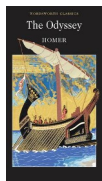
It ran when he called for his friends,
Aghast and flooded with tears.
And thundering out from the cottage,
Came his colossal, murderous peers.

The spider didn't mean any harm,
It didn't ask to be prodded and poked.
It didn't want to be chased round the garden,
Or laughed at or hunted or soaked.

Then one of them pulled out a knife,
And cut off his eight hairy legs.
He dropped them in a nearby mug,
Along with the spit and the dregs.

The spider was ruined and wrecked,
It had a future of trouble and strife,
It didn't ask to be caught in a bottle,
To rot for the rest of its life.

THE CREATIVE PAGES



EERIE ANCIENT GREEK MYTHS!

By Chloe White

Have you ever read a Greek myth? Ancient Greek myths were epic stories about the Greek Gods. Often, they featured heroic fights and taught about right and wrong or bravery. They were also a huge part of religion in Ancient Greece.

SCYLLA AND CHARYBDIS

On corresponding sides of a narrow stretch of sea, two fierce monsters wait. On the one side, Scylla plays around with her six snakelike, gruesome heads. On the other, Charybdis stirs up a deadly whirlpool. No mortal has ever faced these beasts and escaped with all their limbs. Currently, Odysseus the King and his crew need to pass the monsters to travel home. They glide around Charybdis' whirlpool, narrowly escaping being pulled under the sinister water. However, Scylla swoops and...gobbles up six men whole! Odysseus shouts, instructing the remaining crew to edge past Scylla and the spiralling sea. Having escaped death, Odysseus and his team continue on their treacherous journey.



Find out more about Greek Myths in the library! For Greek myth inspired modern fiction, try Rick Riordan's Percy Jackson or Trials of Apollo series.

Tom Treasure by Liberty Knowles

I'm not sure why I noticed the man with the wooden leg. I guess it might have been because the hairs on the back of my neck stood on end and I felt a shiver down my spine. If there's one thing I've learned it's that your neck hairs never lie. I ignored it at first, but in the back of my mind I knew someone was watching me. My parents were too focused on the guy reading the Bible at the front of the church to pay any attention to me, so I seized the moment and turned around to see who was there. I didn't see anyone at first, but when I looked closer I saw the edge of a black hat behind a pillar. Then a leg stepped into view and a shadowy figure appeared. This is when I noticed the man with the wooden leg. I looked up to his face and his eyes dug into mine. At this point, he knew that I had seen him and he hid behind the pillar once again. I turned around and went back to listening to the Bible. The lights started flickering. I looked over to the light switch to realise that the man with the wooden leg was messing with it. It was at that moment that it all went dark. I tried to remember the layout of the church and get out of the door, but I tripped and went crashing to the floor.

The church was a magnificent place that I went to every Sunday. It was grand and very old. Now it was filled with screams and chaos but through it all I could hear heavy footsteps pounding towards me. Then they stopped. They were right behind me now. A sweaty hand clasped around my mouth to stop me from screaming. I felt like a spider trapped in a cup. Then I felt nothing....
(to be continued)

THE CREATIVE PAGES

All I can hear is the thumping of your heart.

Tick tock, tick tock, like drums, beating out the sound of your life.

The machine that had screeched out the end of your life had lied directly to my face. The wires which had been lifelines to you were traitors, the machines that were keeping you alive for me deceitful. The room which had slowly been seeping out your life was gone. Instead you were here. Here in the hall, my hall, standing strong and proud and rightfully so.

I hated watching you sink into yourself. Your once majestic, powerful body ate itself becoming weak and fragile. Quickly my grandfather, the man whose love had carried me through my life had become snappy and cold. You wouldn't even crack a smile for me. The man you were, who carried me on your wings to extraordinary places was gone. Everything we'd seen together, the countries and places were wiped out. You were empty.

But we don't have to worry about that now. No. Now you are as you were. The king of my world who guides me through, pushing me to the stars. Your chimes of time tell me where I need to be, your hands gesture me out the door. You are my alarm, protecting, no... guarding our love.

I'm so glad you are here. Without you I wouldn't know what to do. It would be like that time I got lost in the maze, do you remember? I spent hours twisting and turning, running and crying. Like the sun after a rainy day, you appeared as a light, just your presence saving me. And here you are again. You didn't let the angels drag you up to heaven. You stayed with me. You stayed so your pendulum could wave me out the door everyday. You stayed to watch over me yourself and stay with me. You stayed so you could forever be my grandfather clock.

Georgia Williams

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Danger from the moon

By Elizabeth Trott



I was running.

Faster and faster. Ba-boom!, ba-boom! went my heart. The full moon glistened as my blood boiled. I had to get there. I reached the end of the cliff as I looked up at the milk moon.

Not tonight ... Not tonight ...

I tried my best to stay up. I tried my best to overpower it but I lost. I fell to the ground as I felt a sharp twinge of pain. Hotter and hotter as the moon shone. The world started to rotate as my vision turned blurry and red. Everywhere I looked was blurry and red. Claws ripped out of my fingers. I could feel the moon's rays covering my body like a blanket. Howling in pain, it felt like my skin was peeling off. Fur covered my body. My ears shot up in a cone-like shape. My teeth sharpened like knives. I looked up and howled at the moon.

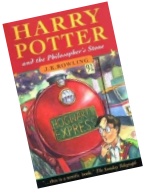
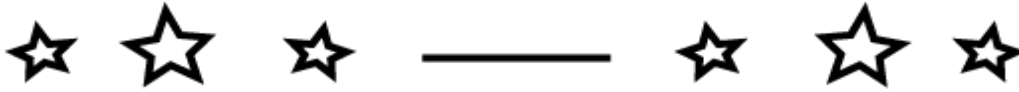
Readit!
Readit!



It makes me laugh, it makes me cry,
It sends my grandparents crazy,
I'll play all day, I'll play all night,
Because of this they think I'm lazy.
But only other gamers understand -
The skill, the craft and all the joy,
It could be life or death, I'll save the world,
This is not just a toy.
Do your homework!, clean your room! they tell me,
And change your socks!,
They don't understand... If only they did...
I can't turn off my X-Box.
I play as much as I can by day, in my room until it is dark,
I've got no time to go outside, no time for the park.
I've made friends all over the world,
Spain, Italy, America and France,
My little sister keeps coming in, all she wants to play is 'lets dance'.
I like playing it a lot, my new bike as well
I wish school holidays would never end,
Because nothing can beat playing my games with all of my friends.
Jay Sutton



RAVE REVIEWS



Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone Anything is possible... A review by Toby Roche



The first Harry Potter book was published in 1997! It was so instantly popular that six further books and eight blockbuster films followed. The books have been translated into 80 languages and have sold over 500 million copies world-wide, becoming the best-selling book series in history.

So let's join the wizarding world and look at the book that started it all!

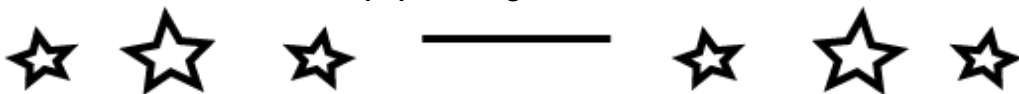
When mysterious letters start arriving on his doorstep, all addressed to Harry Potter, they are immediately destroyed by his Aunt Petunia and Uncle Vernon Dursley. Strange events occur at Number 4, Privet Drive: the letter, owls everywhere, a cat reading a map on the corner of the road plus much more. Trying to escape this madness, the Dursleys, with their son Dudley and Harry escape to a remote island. On Harry's 11th birthday, a strange looking giant bursts in with the important news "you're a wizard, 'Arry!"

Everything changes for Harry from that moment. Everything he thought he knew about his parents and his past was all lies. Harry begins to understand he has magical powers, something he thought was just normal but actually it isn't. For example, being able to speak to and understand snakes! Harry becomes a pupil at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry and his adventures begin...

The book has multiple styles: action, adventure, mystery and myth. The characters are all believable because the author describes them so you have a very clear image in your mind of how they look. They seem to be normal everyday people and then up pops a goblin in a bank. This makes it exciting to read and as the reader you are curious as to what will happen next and want to find out more.

The author uses unusual words and phrases throughout the book, which helps to separate Muggle language (that's us normal non-wizarding people) from the wizarding world speech. For example 'Quidditch', 'Capus Draconis' 'Wingardium Leviosa' and 'Alohomora'. Strangely, you become used to this language the further you read into the books and the rest of the series.

In my opinion I believe that the book is an excellent read whatever your age may be. My reasons for this are that the story draws you into a magical world that crosses paths into our world, for example, what could be more normal than a railway station platform to catch a train? Except to get to this one you have to walk through a brick wall! The way it is written makes you feel that it isn't a fairy-tale but a reality instead. It also has laugh out loud humour moments such as when Hagrid uses a spell to make Dudley grow a pig's tail. I would recommend this book to everyone, because it makes you feel that anything is possible and **who wouldn't want to be a pupil at Hogwarts?**



DO YOU LIKE TO WRITE?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE PART OF OUR NEWSLETTER TEAM IN SEPTEMBER? WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FOR MORE STORIES AND POEMS AS WELL AS BOOK AND FILM REVIEWS AND ORIGINAL ARTWORK FOR OUR SEPTEMBER EDITION OF THE STAMP!

PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE LIBRARY OR SUBMIT YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS BEFORE 7TH SEPTEMBER 2018.

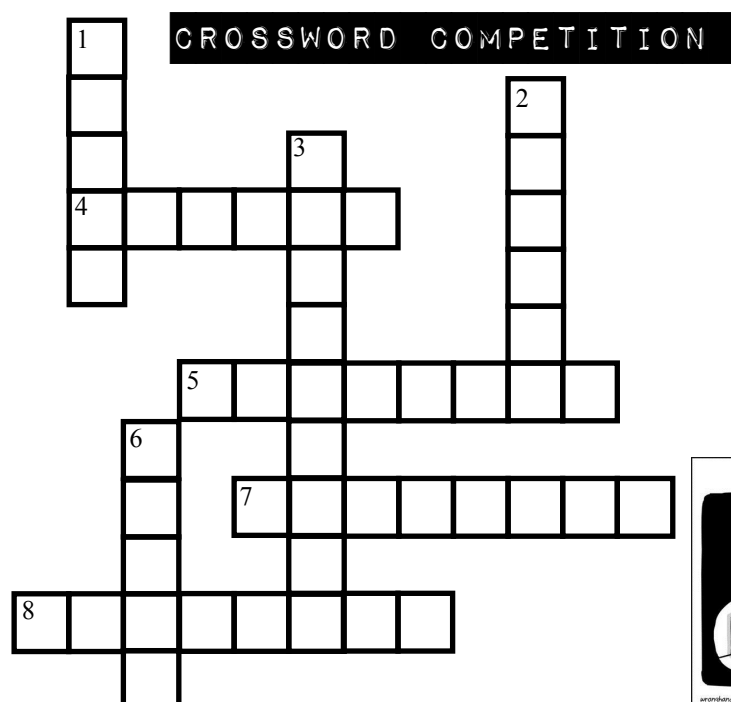
Continued from P1—CONTROVERSY!

Did Mary Shelley really write *Frankenstein*?



Ever since it was published in 1818, some people have claimed that Mary Shelley did not write the novel *Frankenstein*! They say that it was actually her future husband the famous poet Percy Bysshe Shelley who wrote most of it. Part of the reason for this was that Mary did not put her name on it when it was first published - the author was 'Anonymous'. Some reviewers argued that at age 18 and a woman, Mary would not have known enough about electrics, science and philosophy to write about them. What they are forgetting is that Mary's mother and father were both celebrated writers, philosophers and advocates of women's rights.

What do you think? Did she write it?

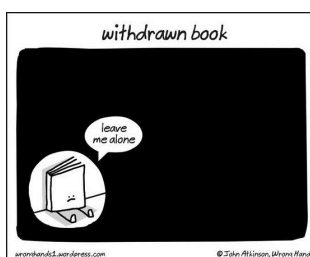


Across

4. Enter this land through a wardrobe
5. Surname of author of Alex Rider series
7. Miss Peregrine's home is for these children
8. Skulduggery Pleasant is a detective who also happens to be one of these

Down

1. David Walliams' tramp is called Mr _____
2. Charlie's surname in Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
3. Dystopian adventure by Veronica Roth
6. Tom's surname in the books by Liz Pichon



PUN-BELIEVABLE!

I used to be a banker
but then I lost interest.

RIDDLE CHALLENGE

The Case of Bill, Ben, Harry and Larry

Bill, Ben, Harry and Larry all lived together in the same house. One night, Bill and Ben went out for a meal. When they got back about midnight they were horrified to find Larry lying dead in a pool of water on the floor. They knew that Harry had murdered him, but they didn't tell the police. How come?

AUDACIOUS ANAGRAMS

Can you solve these anagrams of
5 famous British authors

We shall make a pie sir!
A valid swim lad!
His lens cracked
A hard doll
Much gloomier rap

CAREERS CATCH-UP

Need help and advice about future careers?

Mrs Knowles, the Careers Adviser is based in the office in the Library on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Pop in to make an appointment or alternatively you can always email her at careers@fairfax.bham.sch.uk

There is also a careers book section in the library to inspire you!

