



Beyond the Books

Newlands Girls' School Library Newsletter
Issue 2 (July 2020)



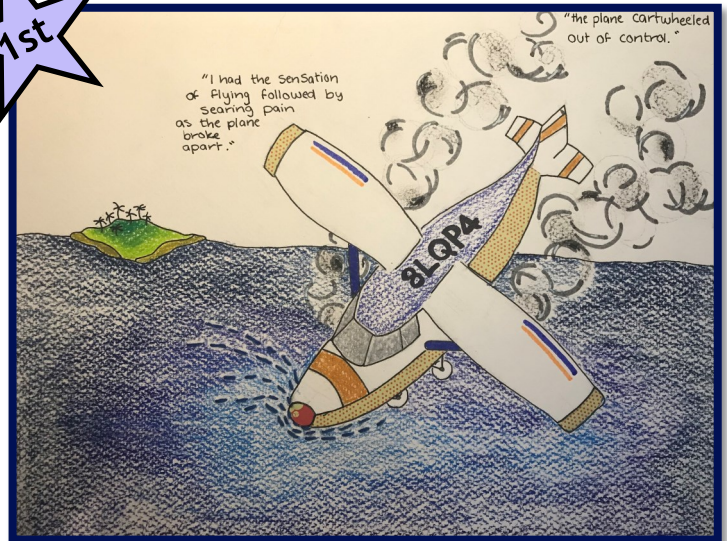
"The beginning is always today."

Mary Shelley, author of *Frankenstein*

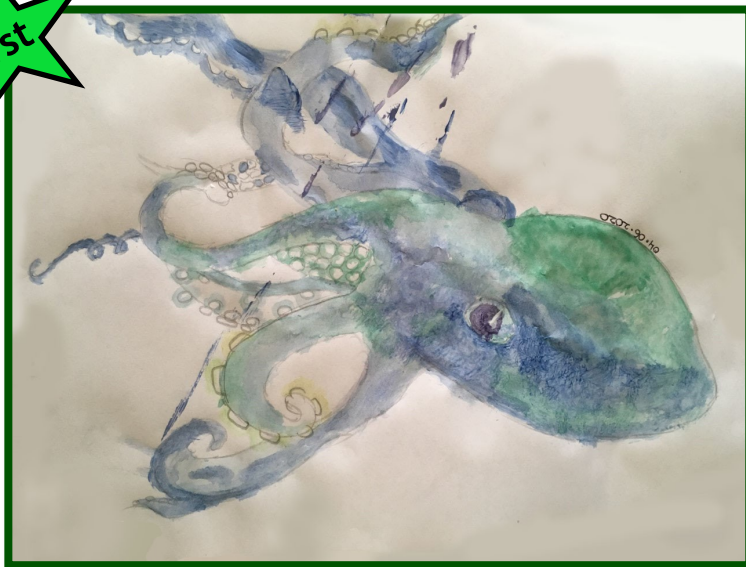
We had a huge number of amazing entries for the Library art competition! The two joint winners are **Maryam (8A)** and **Rhianna (10D)**. Several students were highly commended – see the next page for more details!

Thank you to everyone who has helped with the Library, borrowed books and entered our competitions this year! We look forward to seeing you all in September!

Mrs Evetts



Library Art Competition Joint Winner!
Rhianna (10D) - On the Island



Library Art Competition Joint Winner!
Maryam (8A) - *The Soul of an Octopus*

Classics Challenge

Over the holidays, why not have a go at the Library Classics Challenge? The list of books is available on the Library page of the Newlands Girls' School website. It is possible to find electronic versions of some of the books such as *Pride and Prejudice* available for free. Follow *Alice in Wonderland*, read the *Tales from 1001 Nights* or *Journey to the Centre of the Earth* and tell us about it next term!

Library Art Competition

Thank you for all the amazing pictures! Rebecca Howard, the local artist who was judging, was amazed at the range and quality of work that she had to choose from. We have not been able to include all of the pictures in the newsletter. However, all entries will be on display in the Library in September. The winners will receive a £15 Amazon voucher and the students judged as highly commended will receive a card with a print of Rebecca's artwork including her feedback on their work.



Winners

- **Maryam (8A) - The Soul of an Octopus**
- **Rhianna (10D) - On the Island**

Highly Commended

- Sophie (7B) - Arsenic for Tea
- Ursi (7C) Percy Jackson
- Sara (7A) - Tom's Midnight Garden
- Charvi (7E) - Hermione from Harry Potter
- Sinead (7E) - Skulduggery Pleasant
- Emily (8A) - Harry Potter and Voldemort
- Charlotte (9A) - Room with a View
- Madison (9B) - Shere Khan
- Hannah (9E) - Smaug
- Elsa (9E) - Ballet Shoes
- Rebecca (9F) - The Cruel Prince
- Abigail (9F) - Thirteen Curses



Today was THE day!

By Roma (9C)

Today was THE day! A day that would change our lives and the world as we know it. Dr Bigsby had tested and prepared everything to the smallest detail. I would be lying if I said I wasn't nervous. I laid wide-awake all-night staring at my bedroom ceiling imagining all the possible scenarios I could be in. But I could not have ever foreseen this one. My stomach felt like a raisin, shrivelled and weak. Millions of people watched on the news internationally. Thousands of people all swarmed together huddling around the stage. Hundreds of the best world class scientists had worked day and night saving over this masterpiece of a project. Tens of accountants and investors observed the very thing that was predicted to make them the richest people in the world. Then there was me. The first participant to ever test time travel. People knew me as an international hero, kids idolized me, celebrities became my best friends and people were extra nice to me. Yet I was still the same old person I always was. Violet Jenkins. I'm a mathematics professor at Oxford with 2 PHD's in physics and chemistry along with 3 years martial arts training in Thailand. My experience and young age of 25 made me perfect for the job.

Walking on to the brightly lit stage was just a blur. I feel sorry for my naive young self for believing that anything good could ever come out of this. I was set to travel only one hour into the future and then come back with the reports and photos of what I had seen. Due to the butterfly effect I had to provide clear and reliable proof but nothing too revealing as I could have damaged the universe and the spacetime continuum; making every living organism disintegrate where it stood. As I sat in the claustrophobic chrome machine the countdown began. Ten seconds til the future would be my present. The lights flickered violently, and sharp noises surrounded me compressing my thoughts into my skull. My bones vibrated and my blood boiled as my eyes dried up leaving me shook to my core. Little did I know the last words I would hear in a while was the 'ONE' from the ecstatic crowd. "THUDDDD!", The machine stopped, and I had arrived at my destiny. Eagerly I opened the door to face a catastrophic sight which made me want to scream, cry and faint all at the same time. The air was getting colder and thinner as the time went on and on and on. Hyperventilating was no option if I panicked then I would not be able to get back. I needed to understand what had happened I just one hour. I had the view of a desert that scoured the horizon with no trace of life. It's like everything had been wiped from existence and humans became extinct. I was stuck with no way out.

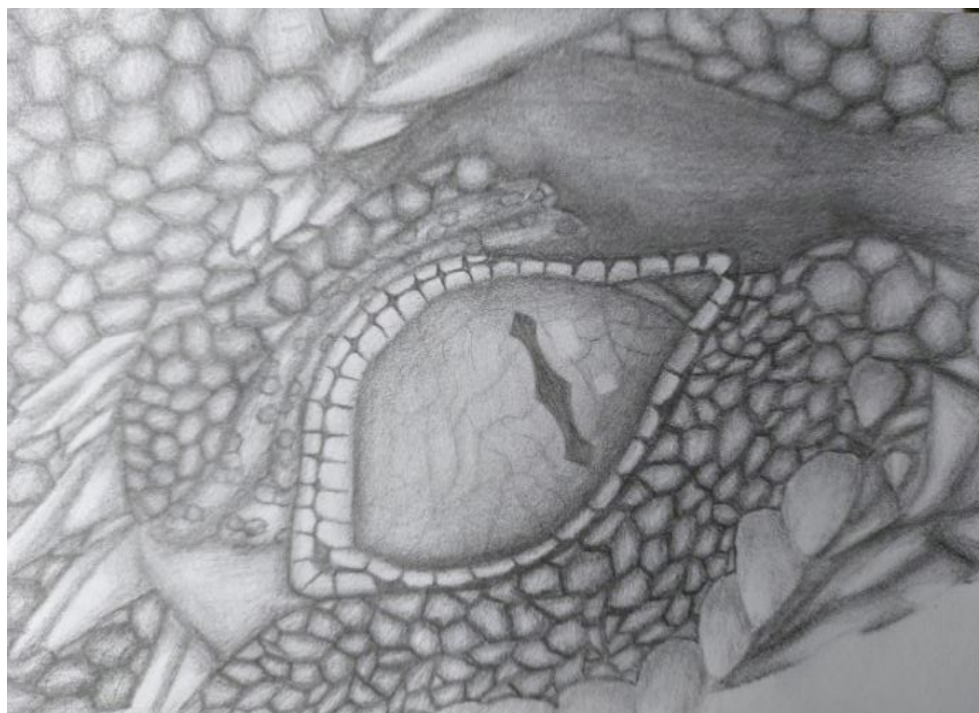


Sinead (7E) - Skulduggery Pleasant

Film Review – Lord of the Rings

By Sinead (7E)

The Lord of the Rings is a fantasy book trilogy by J.R.R Tolkien which has been adapted into 3 movies directed by Peter Jackson. It follows the journey of young hobbit Frodo as he journeys through Middle-earth on a quest to destroy Sauron's ring. Throughout the film you're introduced to a cast of thrilling and unique characters including elves, dwarves and wizards who all play a role in the story whether it be big or small. The plot itself is complicated and full of subplots and twists which come together to form the main storyline. This is partly due to the vastness of the world and the epic scale of the battle which is fought.



Smaug from the Hobbit by Hannah (9E)

The films are brilliant adaptations of the books and bring the world created by Tolkien to life in a way never before imagined and with a brilliant cast and script the films manage to capture the essence of the books. I would recommend these films to anyone who enjoys fantasy films, no matter whether they've read the books or not. It will be enjoyed by fans of films such as Harry Potter or Percy Jackson while bringing a plot unlike any other. With action that flows seamlessly and flawless acting paired with enchanting special effects this movie is a masterpiece which lives up to the high standard set by the books.



The Great Outdoors

By Malghalara (7F)

Imagine a world where Eagles swoop past
A world of wildlife where animals surpass
Where fish thrive in the rapid seas
Where beetles clamber up the sturdy trees

Delve into a world where you hear the lion's roar
Watch the cunning lynx stalk the wild boar
The butterfly that flutters gracefully around
The fox that sneaks without a single sound

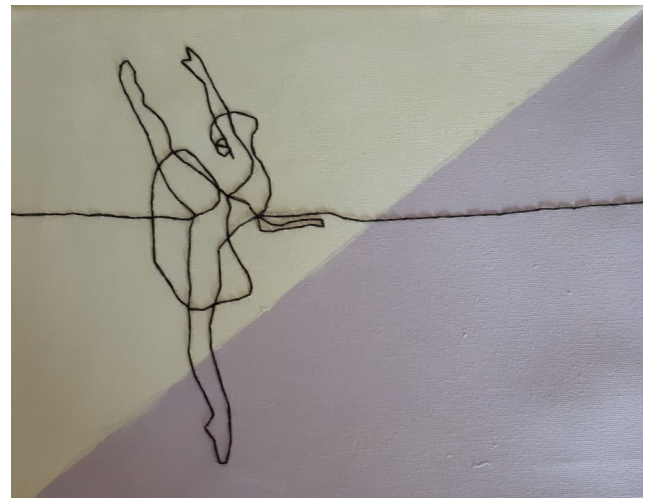
Picture a world where bees swiftly buzz by
A home for birds that fly gloriously high
A place that will surely leave us in awe
A place named the Great Outdoors



Photo by Helen (9D)



Photo by Helen (9D)



Elsa (9E) - Ballet Shoes

New Library Books!

Lots of new books have arrived in the Library ready for when everyone is back in school! These are just a few...





By Charvi (7E) -Hermione Granger

Book Review – The Supernaturalist, by Eoin Colfer

By Niamh (7F)

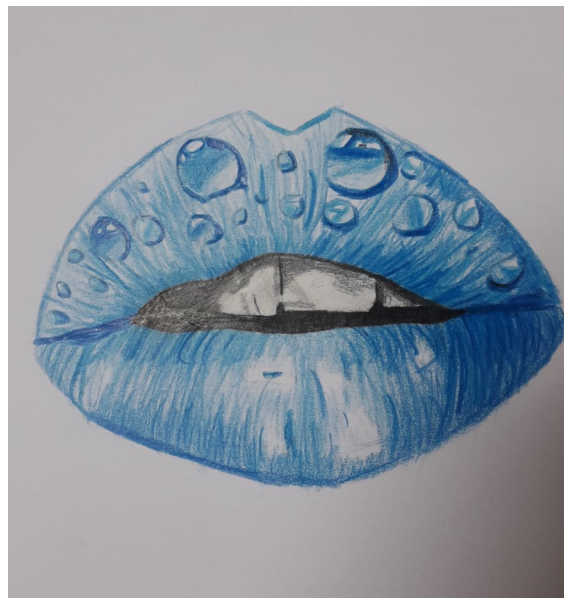
Plot

The book takes place in a dystopian future, and follows the journey of an orphan called Cosmo Hill, as he tries to escape from a corrupted orphanage which uses its inhabitants as human guinea pigs, testing government treatments and weapons on them. Throughout the duration of the book he meets a group of unique individuals and, after a near death experience, gets pulled into a fight he never even knew existed, but not everything is as it seems...

Why read?

This unique book builds a frightening yet realistic vision of the future, which explores all aspects of life, making you connect with the characters. The main

characters themselves all have great depth and purpose, so there are no side characters with no use. The plotline is full of action and fast paced, so you never get bored, it also includes some very emotional scenes which remind you of the things at stake. Perhaps the best thing about this book, however, is the twist we get near the end, which effectively turns the story upside down, and leaves the reader thinking long after they have put down the book.



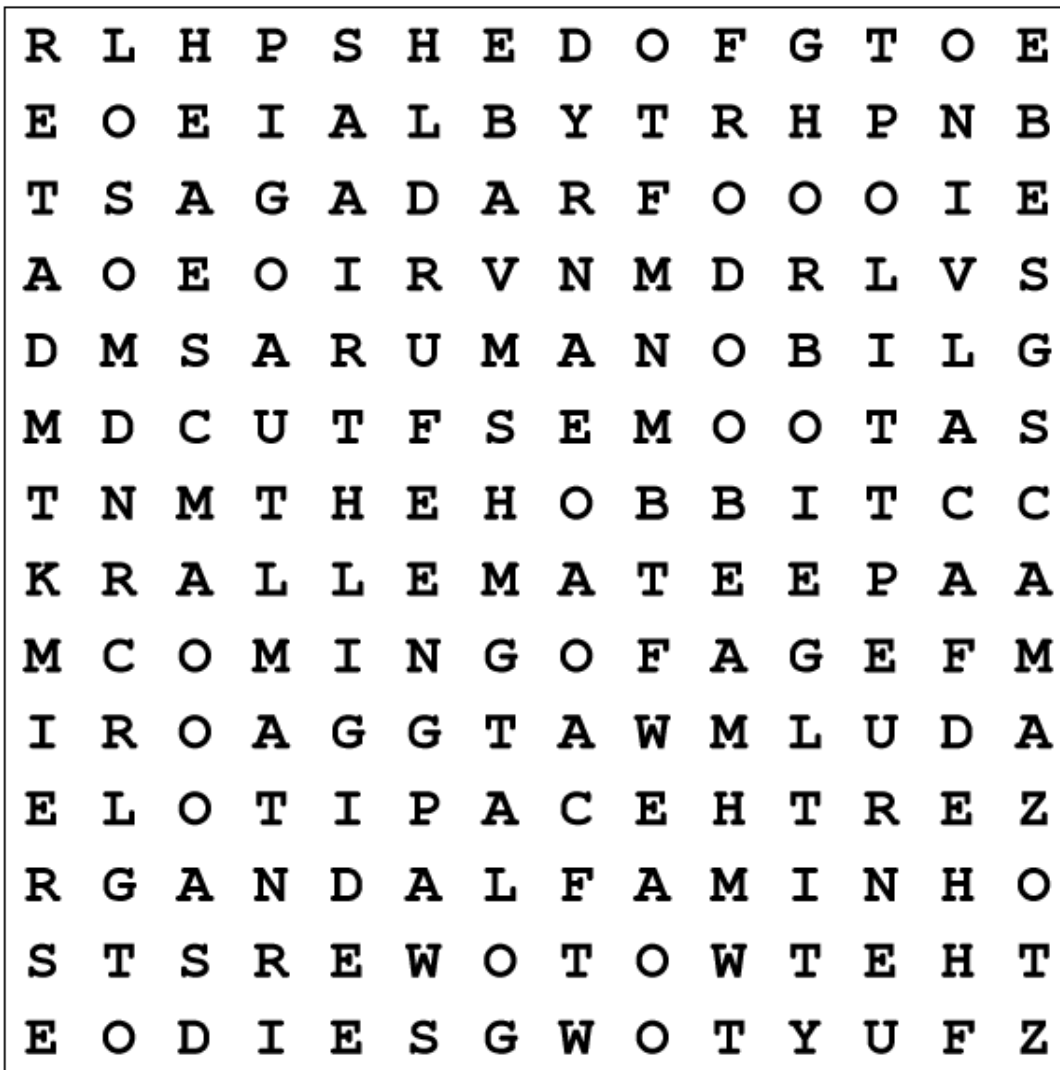
Sophie (7B) - Arsenic for Tea



Ursi (7C) Percy Jackson

Science Fiction / Fantasy Word Search

By Jessica (7F)



The Capitol
 Peeta Mellark
 The Two Towers
 The Hobbit
 Frodo
 Bilbo Baggins
 Coming of Age
 Saruman
 Gandalf
 Radagast
 Meg
 Calvin
 Camazotz
 Mr Murray
 Thomas
 Minho
 Alby



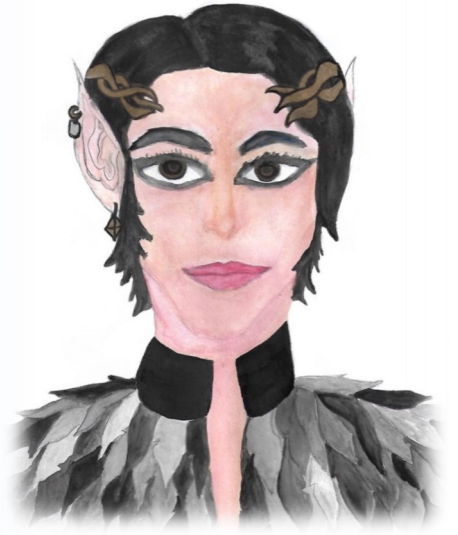
My love for you

By Isla (7E)

How do I express my love for you?
You are greater than the million stars in the night sky
You are more beautiful than the ocean blue
Your warmth, kindness and integrity are no lie

Your hair flows golden and bright
Your heart is strong
Your body is sheer delight
It is clear with you I belong

I plan a future together with only you in mind
We would embrace things together and all that is new
My love is not blind
I know that I would be perfect with you
You will live forever and always in my soul
It is only you that makes me whole



Rebecca (9F)The Cruel Prince)



Photos by Sri (9B)

Haiku

By Evey (8A)

Summers heat returns
Humid air engulfing us
Long gone is the Spring



Science Fiction / Fantasy Crossword

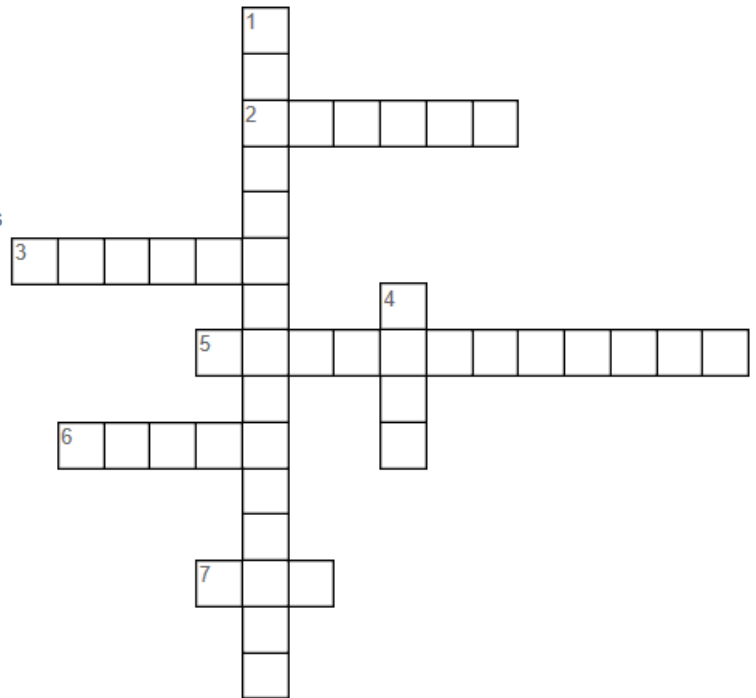
By Jessica (7F)

Across

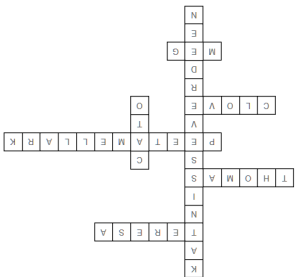
- 2 Who is 'The last one' in The Maze Runner?
- 3 Who is the person who can talk to Teresa telepathically?
- 5 District 12s male tribute in the 75th Hunger Games.
- 6 Who was the tribute that had her skull knocked in at Thresh's hands?
- 7 Who is the main character in a Wrinkle in Time?

Down

- 1 Who is nicknamed 'The mockingjay'?
- 4 Who was attacked by mutant wolves in the Hunger Games?



Answers



Haikus

By Lexi (8B)

Endlessly spinning
The sun is a disco ball
Shining throughout earth

The world is unknown
Mercury, mars, Jupiter
Tiny little specks

The earth Is Dying
We need to take care of it
Before it's too late



Photo by Helen (9D)

Roller Coaster

By Charlotte (9A)

Speaking ought to be like breathing,
Words always there - no need for reaching,
Like for an artist to draw a poster,
But for me, sometimes it is a roller coaster.

Creeping slowly upwards, then racing to the ground,
My words fly by me, and I cannot pin them down.

My words soar like birds, whip my face like air,
In my mind, in my heart, around me everywhere.
I try to chase those wilful words down,
But when I need to speak, I do not make a sound.

Creeping slowly upwards, then racing to the ground,
Words flying by me, but I cannot hold them down.

Often my words get caught,
They come grinding to a halt,
I slip, I fall, I stutter,
I am not in control.

Slinking slowly upwards, then crashing to the floor,
My words fall all around me, flying swiftly out the door.



Photo by Sri (9B)



Charlotte (9A) - Room with a View

The Acorn

By Malghalara (7F)

On the forest floor laid a small acorn
Brown and hard, dug halfway into the ground
It was near some berry bushes and thorns
But no more oaks or acorns were around

Years passed by and back to that very spot
No acorn was found - something else arised
It had really grown higher by a lot
'Twas the acorn ...yet I felt 'twas disguised

'Tis now a tower that reaches the clouds.
Its giant dark brown branches reach afar
The oak tree now stands tall and very proud
The finest, largest tree I see, by far

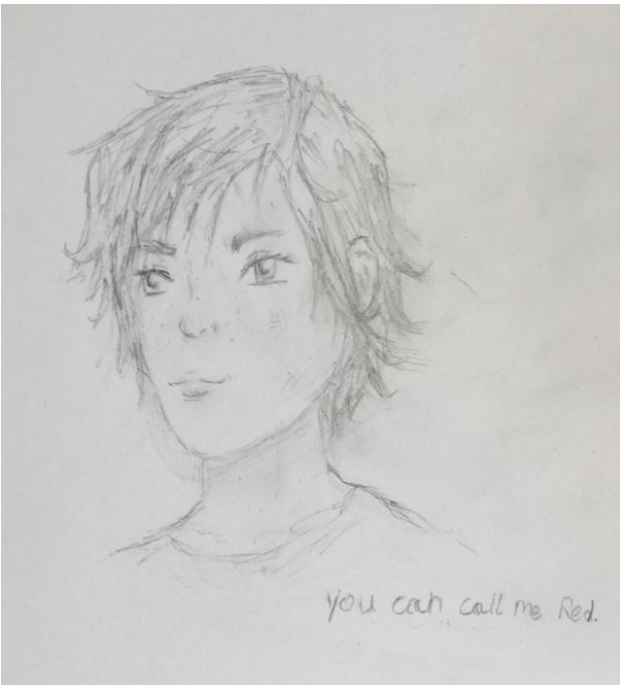
From the tiny acorn to the oak tree
Full of perseverance, don't you agree?

Loving the Dead

By Daisy (7F)



Grace paced slowly through the graves. Each stone was rotten and decayed, the names of long forgotten souls etched faintly beneath the lichen entombing the restless beneath. A light breeze shook the trees and they rustled in an eerie unison, as the girl shivered slightly in the icy wind. A small brook ran nearby, laughing as it tripped and fell over small pebbles on its journey downstream. It emitted a strong luminescent glow, and cast a silver light over a single tombstone in a derelict corner of the church.



Abigail (9F) - Thirteen Curses

The moon shone brightly to reveal a single name written in gold copperplate against a stark black slate behind. A young man stood beside this grave, dressed in only a midnight robe. His hair was neatly parted, and his doe brown eyes seemed to greet Grace sombrelly as she walked slowly towards him.

“It’s sad isn’t it,” he said softly. “All these people. They had their whole lives left to live yet they were snatched away. By God’s will.” Grace felt a strong pulse of understanding pass from one to the other as their eyes met and she gazed shyly up at him. “Do you come here often?” She whispered faintly. “Yes,” he said simply. “Do you not feel the magic of this place, the pull of the spirits. Close your eyes.” It was all so sudden, yet there was a certain bond between them, a magnetic force not to be ignored. She closed her eyes, and all of a sudden, hundreds of voices clouded her mind. They hissed and like snakes they intertwined themselves throughout her head. The boy smiled at her. “I knew you would understand.” He took her hand, however his fingers were as white as snow, almost

translucent. Grace’s heart began to beat faster and faster, almost tearing away from her ribcage in a desperate attempt at freedom. “Let me show you,” murmured the boy. Grace grasped his hand in return, and they walked into the ebony night.

Thousands of stars twinkled in the sky above. “They are dead souls,” the boy told her. “Most return to the heavens to live out their eternity, guiding the living for generations.” They continued to walk, no words spoken between them, yet they did not need to say anything to know that they were beginning to trust each other more and more. Grace was burning inside despite the cold, her feelings in a blur of dizzy anticipation. “Let me show you my favourite,” whispered the boy, as he led her past a tall oak tree to one of the newer graves. The chalk white inscription engraved on the headstone read the words, Jacob Reeves, Death- 1999. “Why is it special?” murmured Grace softly. “Let me tell you more,” the boy said.

“Jacob Reeves was a singularly gifted student. He was known as one of the brightest pupils of his generation, quiet and scholarly. When he was just 18 years old, he was diagnosed with a rare blood condition, one that could kill him within days. Jacob feared for his life, he was scared, isolated, and believed he was too young for death, that death was weak. He did not want to die this way, and in one moment of stupidity he poisoned his cup of ale to end his misery.” “That’s terrible,” Grace whispered. “Please, let’s not talk about the dead. Let’s focus on the living.” Once more they walked away, right towards the brook.

Continued on next page.

Tiny fireflies hung like miniature lanterns over their heads. The Breeze had died down, casting an element of peace among the graveyard. The stream beside them lit up in the milky glow of the moon and basked them in a silver light. They sat down underneath a single blossom tree, silky petals falling in a stunning whirl about their heads. The boy looked deep into Grace’s eyes. He brushed a single, chestnut brown wave away from her face, his long and elegant fingers delicately shifting her bow aside. “You never told me your name,” Grace asked curiously, breaking away in realisation of what was happening. The boy stared, penetrating her mind and thoughts. His face creased with emotion as he lightly touched her hand. Grace

felt tired, and her vision swam before her. Her energy was fading, yet as she broke away from him her spirit was instantly renewed. She slowly backed away and once again asked the question, “What is your name?” “ My name ,” he laughed, “Is Jacob Alexander Reeves.” A sudden realisation hit Grace like a tidal wave, yet she had no time to think as her scarlet blood seeped into the earth. Its’ cool metallic stench wove its way across the ground and a single drop fell against the stark grave of Jacob Reeves. Blood from the heart that would never beat again.

Far away, a storm was raging. Salty spray lashed against the walls of the fort and Jacob Reeves began to ascend to the top. In the crash of sudden lightning, his whole body was illuminated ,and he let out a wicked cackle. As if in a trance, he dug his nails into his bony palm and felt warm living flesh. His cycle was complete. He had gained enough souls to live again.



Madison (9B) - Shere Khan



Miss Bennett and her flamingo in the Library!



Sara (7A)—Tom’s Midnight Garden

Hometown hero to the rescue! - Star article from the English department!

By Yana (9D)

James Clyde, 12-years-old, was crossing the busy A505, absolutely oblivious to the car racing towards him at 30mph. Fortunately, Jessica Brookes, a student attending Mannsbridge School, sprang into action as the bolting car approached, diving and pushing Clyde out of the way, risking her own life in order to spare his.

The drama unfolded as the bell rang, signalling the end of the school day at Mannsbridge Secondary Academy. Amongst the herd of pupils James Clyde emerged from the school gates, routinely placing his earphones in his ears as he started to walk back home from school. Distracted by his phone and playing loud music, Clyde simply could not hear the cries of other students, warning him about the oncoming car. Pupils and passing pedestrians froze, none fast enough to save the 12 year old boy, until Jessica Brookes, a 15 year old girl, stepped up with utter bravery and hauled herself towards Clyde as the car struggled to come to a halt, missing Clyde and Brookes of which both had narrowly escaped death.

Upon arrival, police questioned the driver of the rapid car as well as the passing pedestrians, certifying that the driver was in fact operating the car recklessly. With active CCTV footage they confirmed that the driver had been twice the speed limit of 15mph set in the schoolzone.

Aside from that, Police as well as witnesses were astounded at the heroism that young Jessica Brookes had shown and immediately remarked that she deserved an award. As everyone applauded her courage Clyde's parents, Karen and Bill arrived at the scene, forever grateful that their son lived another day, as the result of Brookes actions.

Mrs Johnson, a maths teacher at Mannsbridge Academy, describes the scene as she was on duty outside the school gates. "I heard the shouts and screams of the students, all of them painted with utter shock on their faces and I turned around horrified to see that James was strolling on the road not able to see the fast car moving towards him. My immediate reaction was to run towards him but I knew I would be too late."

James Clyde recounts what had happened to him as the victim. "I was too foolish to have been looking at my phone and listening to music as I crossed the road, however I do it everyday so I thought today would be no different. By the time I saw the car I knew it was too late so I was just frozen to the spot. Luckily Jessica was able to save my life! She really is my hero and I don't think I will ever be able to thank her enough for her risking her own life to save mine."

As promised, the following day at school at assembly, a special medal of valour was awarded to the hometown hero, Jessica Brookes, symbolising her act of bravery and selflessness that will be carried with her forever.

Mannsbridge police report that parents are advised to remind their kids to always be cautious on the road and to always look before crossing as a safety precaution.



'Thoughts' artwork inspired by Martin O'Neill by Niamh (8E)