



Newlands Girls' School Library Newsletter
Issue 4 (December 2020)

A room without books is like a body without a soul.

Cicero (Quote suggested by Emily (Yr 7))



We welcome all Library newsletter contributions!

If you have a short story, poem, article, artwork or anything else, please don't hesitate to send it to Mrs Evetts or one of the editors. If you have any questions about the Library newsletter in general, please get in touch. We are happy to help.

Daisy, Sinéad, Niamh, Ivy, Jessica and Immi

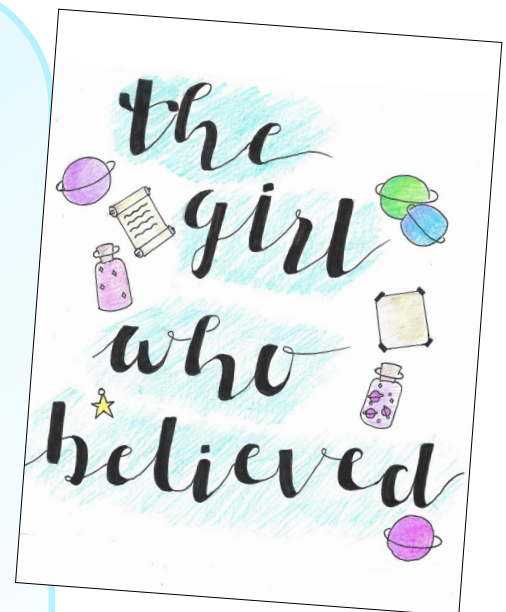
Last Christmas!

Last Christmas,
I was given a book,
But the very next day,
I sent it away.
This year,
To save us some trees,
I can go to the Library instead.

Once read, twice cried,
I've read you once,
but you still catch my eye.
Tell me friend, do you recognise
me,
It's been so long since you last saw
me.

It was in a parcel when I
finally returned it,
With a note saying, thank you
I've now read it.
Now I know what a fool I was,
I wish to read it again, but I
can't reach it.

Last Christmas,
I read you and cried,
And the very next day,
I sent you away.
This year,
I regret my mistake,
But I can't read you again.



Amreece (Yr 7)

A Christmas Carol

Book Review
By Sinead (Yr 8)

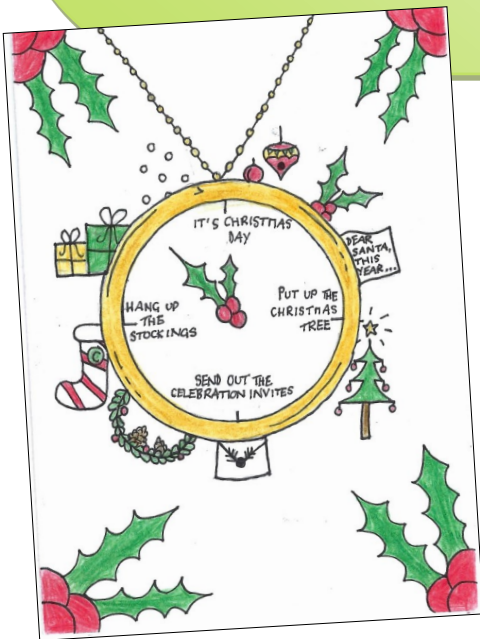
It's nearly Christmas so what better time to review a seasonal classic, *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. Since it was first published in 1843 this well-known book has never been out of print and has been adapted both for 22 stage productions, 2 operas, 4 recordings, at least 10 radio broadcasts, 49 loosely based tv show adaptations and 20 films: in short it's popular, but why is this and is it really worthy of this much widespread recognition? These are the questions I'm going to attempt to answer here so, without further ado, let's get started.

Some of Dickens' books can feel long and heavy particularly when reading them at a young age so for a teen who wants to get a taste of Dickens without feeling like it's a slog or becoming bored, *A Christmas Carol* is the perfect book. The book is divided into 5 chapters, called "staves" by Dickens. This is to reinforce the idea that the book is, in fact, a song – an idea which is already apparent from the title.

The book, as most people know, is about an old miser named Ebenezer Scrooge and how three ghosts endeavour to change his outlook on Christmas and life in general. The main themes of *A Christmas Carol* are redemption, social injustice and, of course, Christmas.

Scrooge is shown at the beginning of the book in a very unfavourable light seeming to care about nothing but money and being very misanthropic (this is demonstrated by his outright refusal to dine with his nephew). Despite Scrooge seeming so unlikable at the start of the book Dickens shows us how anyone can have a redemption and by the end both Scrooge and the book fully embrace the spirit of Christmas.

Overall I think the main reason this book has stood up for so long and has achieved the immense popularity that it has is simply the joy that the book holds. Seeing a grumpy, morose old man change his outlook on life so drastically and fully embrace the happiness that most feel at Christmas is more heart-warming than most Christmas books manage to achieve.



Courtney (Yr 9)

Library Classics Challenge

A Christmas Carol is one of the books in the Library Classics Challenge. The list of books is available on the Library page of the Newlands Girls' School website and all books are available in the Library. Follow *Alice in Wonderland*, read the *Tales from 1001 Nights*, *Journey to the Centre of the Earth* or get into the spirit of Christmas by reading *A Christmas Carol*!

Aizah (Yr 7)



Caption Competition!



Give the images below captions!

A



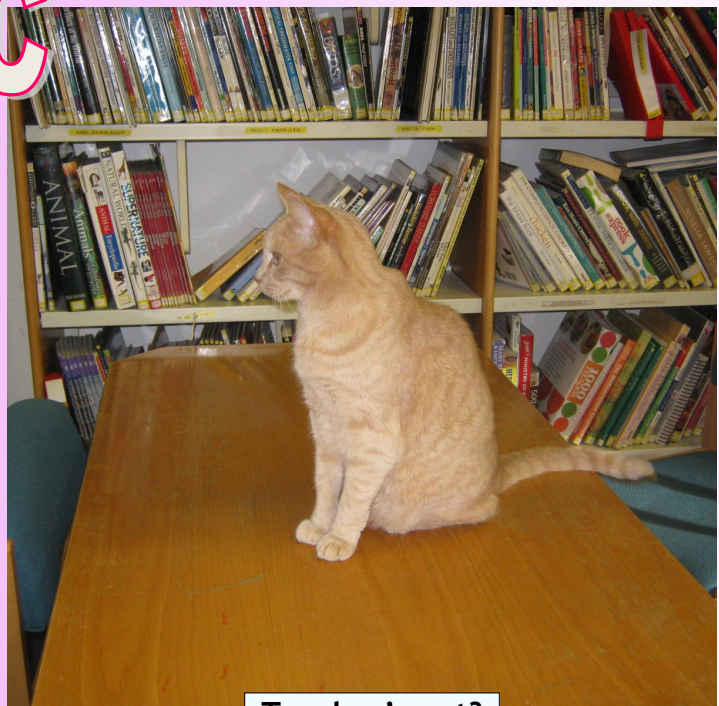
Many thanks to Lands End Equestrian Centre for this photo – a popular local riding stables.
www.landsendequestriancentre.com

B



Miss Capon's dog – Teal

C



Teacher's pet?

Email Mrs Evetts with captions for these photos. The best ones will appear in the next newsletter and win a prize!



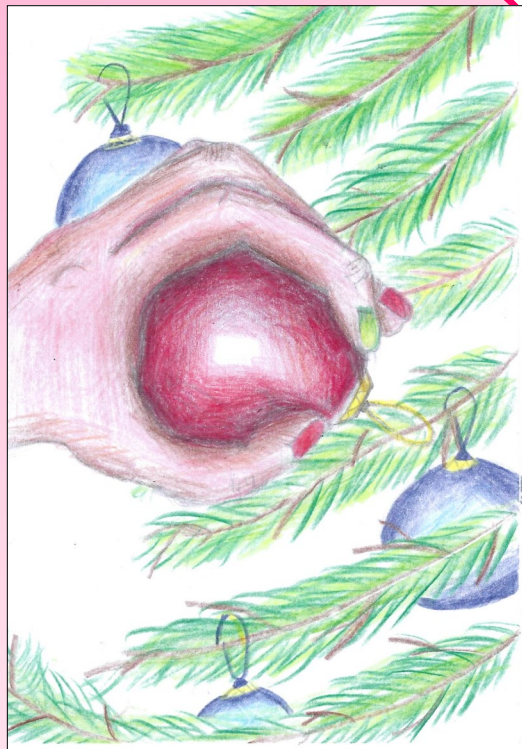
A Christmas Carol

Film Reviews By Niamh (Yr 8)

With so many different film adaptations of A Christmas Carol, both animated and live action, it's no surprise that they can vary greatly in pretty much everything, from the portrayal of Scrooge to what age the film is aimed at. However, there does seem to be certain things that all good adaptations have in common.

Whilst it depends what you're looking for in terms of how accurate or how loose you want the adaptation to be, the most successful adaptations at least manage to keep the same main themes and morals at the core of the book. These themes and the general message of the book are, as has already been discussed, a big part in why the book is such a classic. This may explain why the most successful adaptations are the ones which recognise this and take care to keep the core values of the story the same.

Another important thing that most have in common is that Scrooge's redemption must be impactful. The end of the book is such a joyful, uplifting ending which really drives the message home, so all good adaptations should do their best to try and capture this moment and make it as important and inspiring as possible.



By Earla (Yr 7)



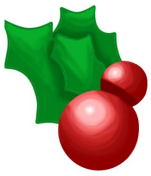
Sara (Yr 7)



Claudia (Yr 7)



Kit (Yr 7)



Eco-Committee

Hi Everyone!

I am very happy to announce the continuation of all things Eco - and although we do not have an official committee this year, we would very much like for you all to get involved.

If you have any suggestions, please do email me and I would be more than happy to take on board your ideas and hopefully see the school work towards being more environmentally friendly.

I look forward to receiving your suggestions!

Chesna Mitra
Head Girl

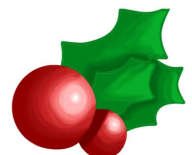


Helen (Yr 10)



There is a pleasure in the pathless woods,
There is a rapture on the lonely shore,
There is society where none intrudes,
By the deep Sea, and music in its roar:
I love not Man the less, but Nature more.

Lord Byron



Broken

By Klaudia (Yr 10)

Long ago, the work of those who dwell in my being,
were those who kept me alive and joyous.
Whispers and laughter that were heard from *my* people,
retained my will to keep on going; to give them what they need.
I used to cry, though the tears were happy ones and pure: they were *clear*.
My breath was so fresh, so cool, so.... *clean*. I was healthy:
I was full of life.

Nature was so exquisite, it adhered so much life.
Children ran around freely, not afraid of those who walked by.
People used to abet one another, love each other, uphold one another.
I used to be in the ubiquity of kindness: this is what I found the most pleasing.
Although not always perfect, my guests respected me... they thanked me.
I would have never requested for more to be done.

However, as the human mind evolved, so did I.
But it was not something sanguine.
I am not living anymore: I am only existing.
You used to care for me so dearly,
yet now it is as if I am no longer your belonging.
I give you nutrition, yet you take it for granted.
I give you a home, yet you tear it down.
My heart is bleeding vulnerably at such sight,
as I wish you could start to alter things now.
Slowly, I am becoming poison for your blood and soon enough,
a threat to your own life.

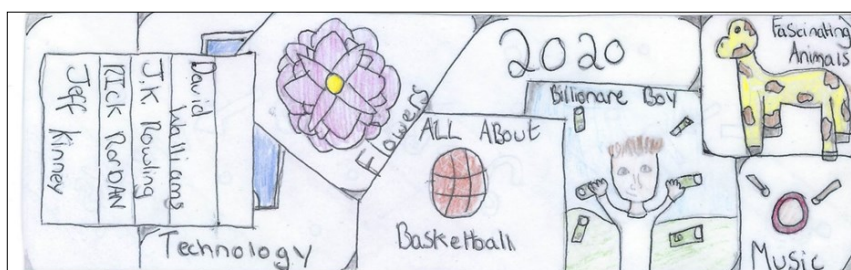
Why will you not seize a moment to admire me,
to be grateful for what many of you obtain to this day?
You decimate my seas with materials unworthy of the damage:
the damage to those creatures who subsist on it.
You pollute my air with gases that embrace danger:
danger that you inhale profoundly into your lungs.
You demolish nature by chopping it down for gratuitous space:
the space that various animals call home.

Now, the work of those who dwell in my being,
are those that are mutely killing me.
The acquisitive behaviour and ignorance that is being surrounded by *these* people,
is making me wonder about my presence.
I can now only look back at the life I once had.
I cry time after time, though the tears are now ones of despondency
and indecent: they are venom to all life.
My breath is now so contaminated, so dirty, so... *infected*: I am dying.

Why do you do this to me human? I'm your Earth... but I am broken now.



Helen (Yr 10)



Abi (Yr 7)

We need to change!

By Maria (Yr 10)

The world needs to change, and we need to start now, as students, while it is not too late to be able to reverse all the damage done to the environment.

Thousands of animals die every year because of us. 5-10% of tropical forest species will be extinguished if the rate of deforestation remains the same. Just over 20% of the Amazon Forest has been destroyed since 1970, and 80% of all forests on the planet have already been destroyed.

We need to save our planet, save ourselves and save other lives.

We are not just killing animals that live in these forests, we are killing other people: about 6.5 million deaths each year are caused by air pollution, pollution caused daily by transport, industry and burning for land use.

Today we have several islands of garbage floating in the sea, and killing several marine animals. We need to change. We need to recycle to reuse.

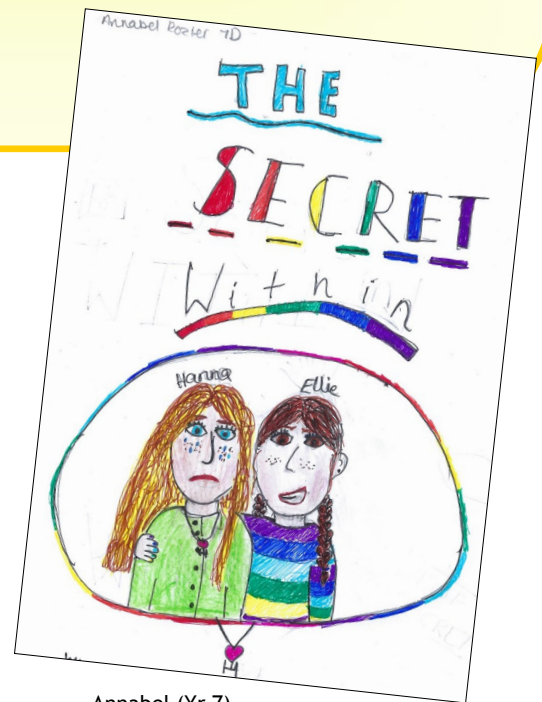
Around the world, reefs that sported colorful corals and a vibrant ecosystem are turning into white and desolate cemeteries, and 27% of our reefs have already been destroyed.

When we are clearing some area, throwing garbage in the wrong places. We are not just destroying and killing some species of animals, we are slowly killing ourselves and killing our planet.

Do you want this to continue?



Helen (Yr 10)



Annabel (Yr 7)

Christmas Green Idea

By Isha (Yr 13)

We as a nation produce nearly 300 million tonnes of waste a year. It's estimated that every tree bought end to end would be the equivalent of a return trip to New York, combined with 4500 tonnes of foil and 13 330 tonnes of glass and wrapping. This amount of waste has a substantially negative effect on the planet and there are simple ways we can reduce it. The local borough will take away your real Christmas tree as long as it's been cut into smaller pieces and put in the green bins. Make sure to purchase and then recycle your recyclable wrapping paper. To test if it's recyclable scrunch the paper in your hands if it starts to unfold it can't be recycled and if it remains scrunched recycle it!

Be Bold

By Isabelle (Yr 9)

While forest fires burn,
How do you sleep,
While the polar bears yearn?
How do you walk,
While plastic pollutes the sea?
How do you take action,
To protect the animals that flee?

You do nothing,
You know it.
You ignore them,
Now admit.
You laugh,
While they die.
You walk away,
While birds can no longer fly.

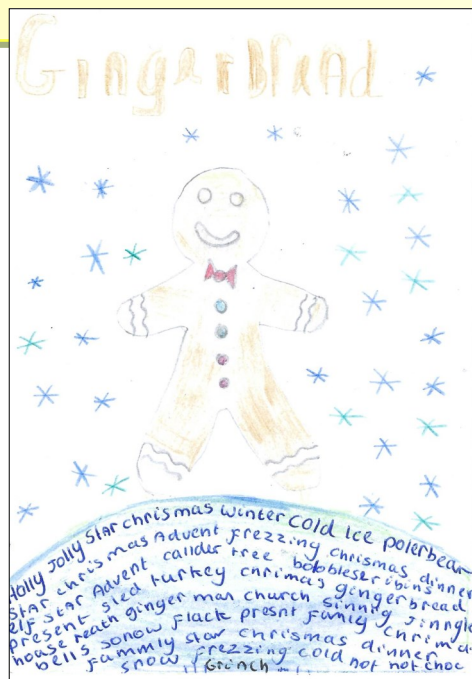
It will solve itself,
Ignore those who stand.
It will be over soon,
As plastic washes up on land.
They want money not health,
Ignoring the damage done.
They feed you lies not truths,
As people head out with their guns.

As the world starts to fall,
You blame those around you.
As life retreats to the shadows,
You say you did everything you could do.
As life dissipates,
You block out memories of ignoring.
As death surrounds all,
You try to forget your laughter roaring.

Now old in the world,
One that is wrecked and torn.
You chat to your grandchildren,
Explaining how you helped to warn.
But as you lie on your death bed,
You tell them of the lies you told.
Laying there watching the world disappear,
You pray to go back and stand up - be bold.



Amy (Yr 7)



Olivia (Yr 7)



Josephina (Yr 7)

Shadow in the Dark

By Malghalara (Yr 8)

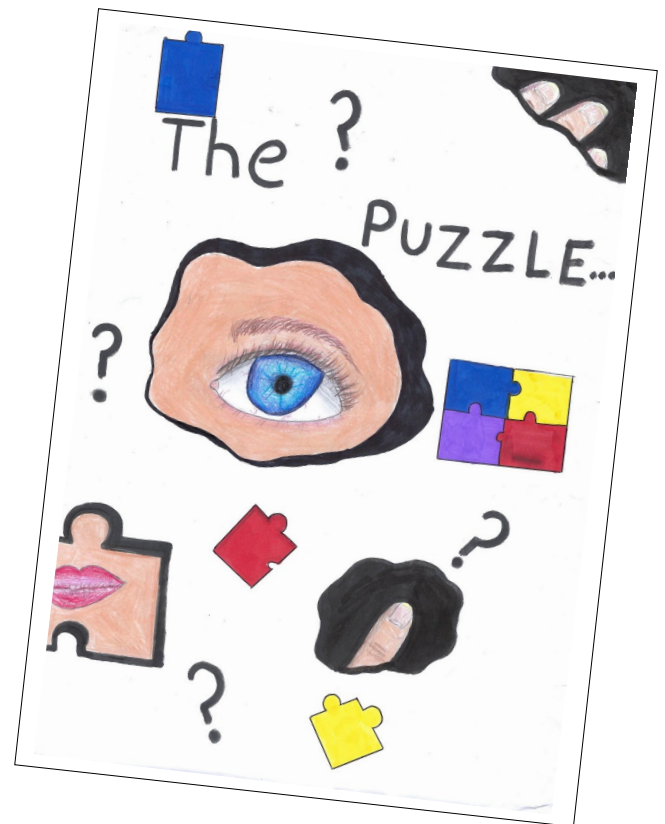
The icy breeze swept across my pallid face as the sun descended over the lifeless horizon. The ominous darkness was looming over the sky, mercilessly consuming it whole. I sat down on the rusty bench in the midst of a thick forest and took a deep breath. Unease spread throughout my body but ... I wasn't sure why I was so immensely daunted.

As the rain started to drizzle down, I got up and carried on walking. My heart started to pace rapidly. My legs urged me to walk faster. I felt sick with trepidation; a sickness so strong that it could upturn worlds. What could my body sense that was so intimidating that my usually dexterous mind could not?

The concrete path led to a more secluded area of the woods, shrouded by a dense mist. A shadow. *How can there be a shadow in complete and utter darkness?* No! It was merely a figure of my wild imagination.

There it was again! Now there was no denying it, for I had seen it in more detail. It seemed to be a tall and gaunt figure. Running from one side of patch to the other. It was running parallel to me but getting closer each time. The closer it got to me the more I felt the life draining out of my body. I remembered everything I had done and hoped to do. I was only in university; I had a whole life ahead of me just waiting. I was getting more limp and pale by the second. It was getting closer, closer, ever closer... until it ran off. It just ran off, far from sight. I breathed out a sigh of relief. But my legs were still shaking...

A firm, glacial hand grasped my shoulder. And I lost all my senses.



Earla(Yr 7)

I was in black. I had become the black. I had replaced the shadow. As the life fled out of me, the knowledge seeped in. I was confined to that little clearing in the woods and I was to wait. Wait, until I could catch a new victim to trap, in order to free myself.



Isabella (Yr 7)

Recipe!

5 Minute Chocolate Mug Cake

By Daisy (Yr 8)

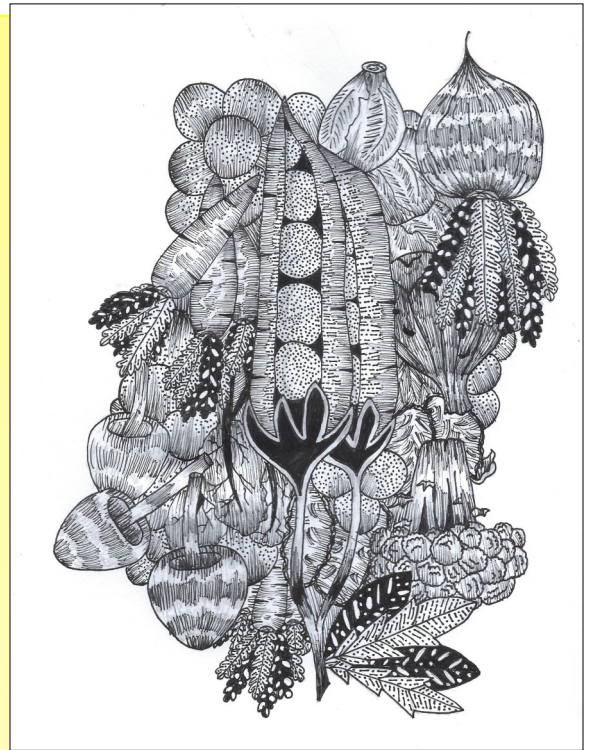
Chocolate cake for one in just a few minutes – thanks to nifty use of the microwave. This is the perfect warm and comforting desert for a cold winter. You can add any extra toppings you like. Anything goes. 😊 Enjoy !

Ingredients

2 tbsp soft unsalted butter
1 tbsp light brown sugar
2 tbsp caster sugar
4 tbsp self-raising flour
1 tbsp cocoa powder
1 egg yolk
½ tsp vanilla extract
Handful chocolate chips

Method

- *Put the butter into a large, microwave-safe mug. Microwave for 10–20 seconds, or until the butter has melted.*
- *Once the butter is melted, use a fork to stir in the brown sugar, caster sugar, self-raising flour and cocoa powder. Mix until well combined without any lumps.*
- *Add the egg yolk and the vanilla extract and stir again. Microwave for 30 seconds.*
- *After 30 seconds, remove from the microwave, taking care to protect your hands as it could be hot. Put the chocolate chips on top of the cake mixture and use a teaspoon handle to push them down slightly into the mixture. Microwave for a further 30–40 seconds.*
- *Carefully remove from the microwave and leave the cake to cool for 10 minutes.*
- *Eat on its own or add a topping such as a scoop of ice cream, wafer, sprinkles, a chocolate flake or raspberries. Enjoy!*



Connie (Yr 9)





Newlands News

This term has been a particularly unusual term for everyone, especially for those who started this year, like us. Here is what we thought of our first term at Newlands.

"I have already made great friends and everyone seems so welcoming. The lessons always have a twist in them. I really enjoy Library lessons in English. The Library has many books to offer and is a very calm and peaceful place." By Johara.

"I've enjoyed school but it is very different to primary and a lot harder. However my friends have helped and all the teachers have been supportive towards my work and I'm glad that I came to this school." By Ruby.

More winners from the Year 7 bookmark competition are displayed in this edition of the newsletter. The book covers designed by the winners of the book cover competition are also in this issue. Many thanks to everyone who entered!

Happy Christmas from the Year 7 editors!

Annabelle, Isabella, Gargi, Ruby and Rosie.

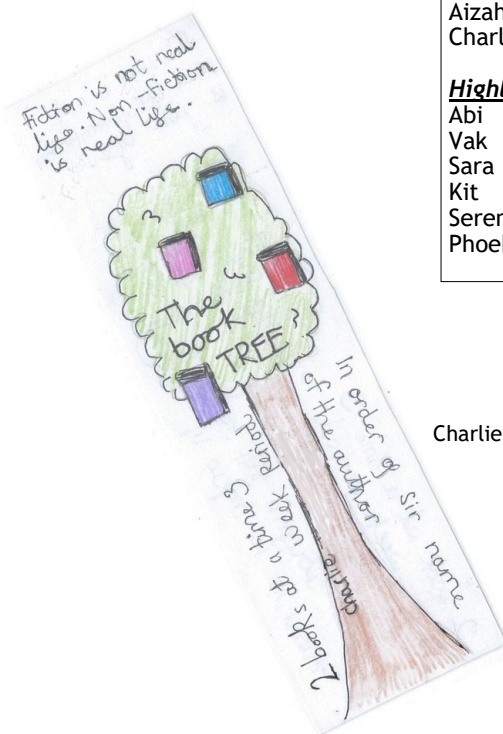
More Bookmark Competition Winners!

Winners

Claudia
Aizah
Charlie

Highly commended

Abi
Vak
Sara
Kit
Seren
Phoebe



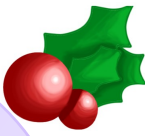
Charlie (Yr 7)



Seren (Yr 7)



Phoebe (Yr 7)



ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS

What I want for Christmas:

- End world hunger
- World peace
- Everybody to be happy!

Christmas playlist:

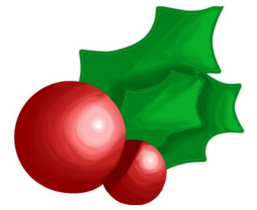
- Last Christmas
- All I want for Christmas is you!
- Jingle Bell Rock
- Rudolf the Red Nose Reindeer
- One More Sleep
- Santa Clause is Coming to Town
- White Christmas

By Annabelle, Isabella, Gargi, Ruby and Rosie (Yr 7).



Gargi (Yr 7)

Photo Competition!



Wildlife photography competition!

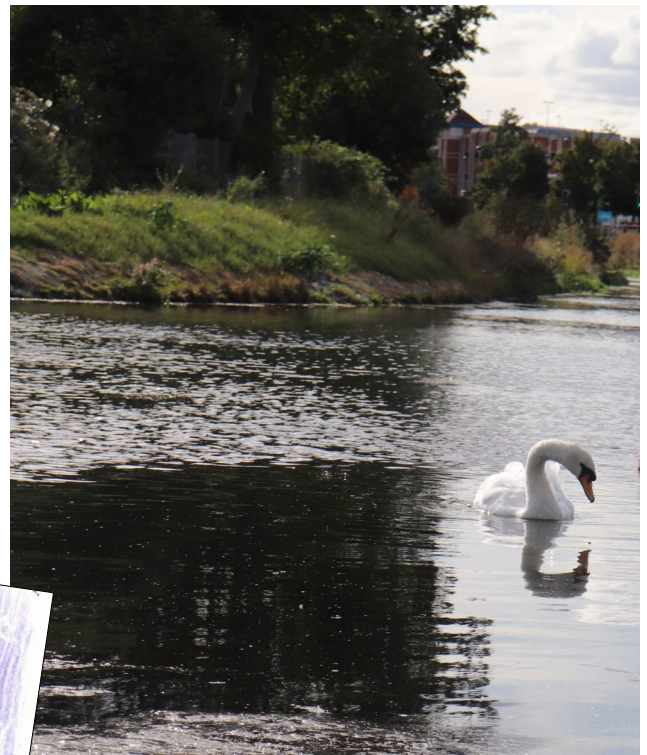
During these cold winter times wildlife still flourishes, so what better way to celebrate that than having a wildlife photography competition!

We're hosting a competition for all budding photographers; we want you to send us a picture that you've taken of wildlife or that has a theme of wildlife.

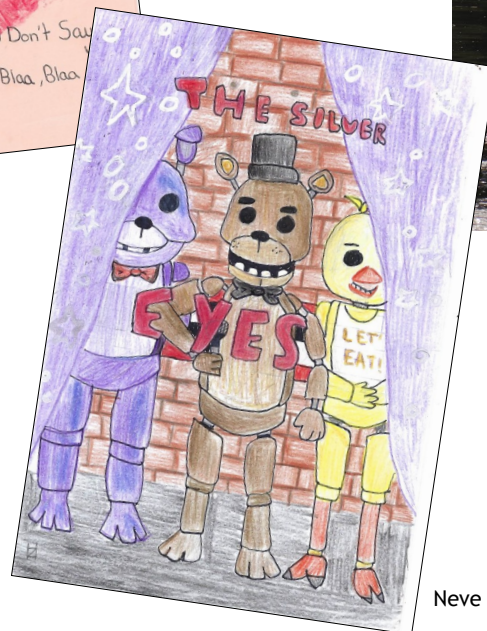
Entries will be featured in the next newsletter and the winners will get a prize. Please send your entries to Mrs Evetts by 11th January.



Tasbeeha (Yr 8)



Helen (Yr 10)



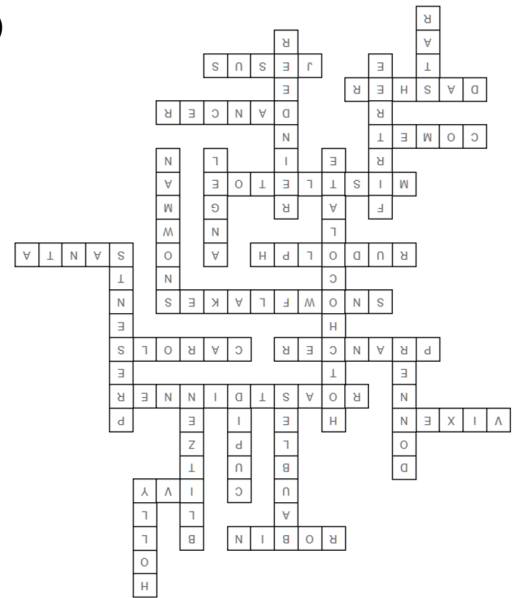
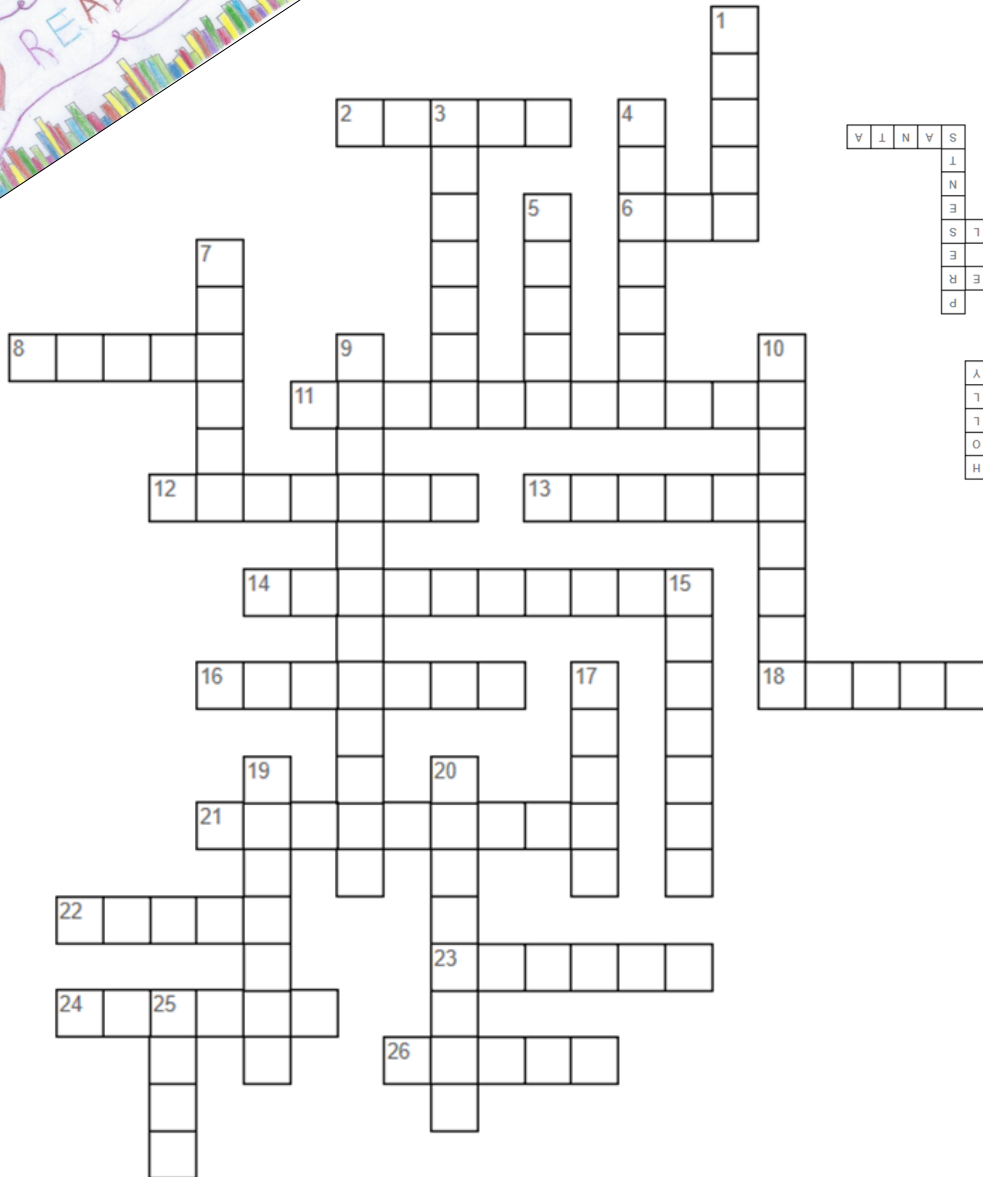
Neve (Yr 7)

Vak (Yr 7)

Christmas Crossword

By Jess (Yr 8) and Ivy (Yr 8)

Answers



Across

- 2 Small bird with a big red chest
- 6 Heart-shaped leaves that grow on vines
- 8 4th reindeer
- 11 Traditional food eaten on christmas
- 12 3rd reindeer
- 13 Christmas songs
- 14 Tiny bits of snow
- 16 The most famous reindeer
- 18 Saint Nicholas, Father Christmas, gives out presents
- 21 A berry that grows on a tree and is hung from the ceiling
- 22 5th reindeer
- 23 2nd reindeer
- 24 1st reindeer in the normal order
- 26 Born on christmas day

Down

- 1 Green spiky leaves with red berries
- 3 Ornaments put on a tree
- 4 8th reindeer
- 5 6th reindeer
- 7 7th reindeer
- 9 Warm chocolate drink
- 10 Given at christmas
- 15 Made of snow, has a carrot for a nose
- 17 Sent from heaven
- 19 Traditional tree used for christmas
- 20 Animals that guide Santa's sleigh
- 25 Something that goes on top of a christmas tree

When The Guns Stopped

By Beatrice (Yr 7)

Stopped, gone, silence

Only for a few hours

When peace came

Playing football

Forget my worries

Making friends with our enemies

When the guns stopped

When silence came

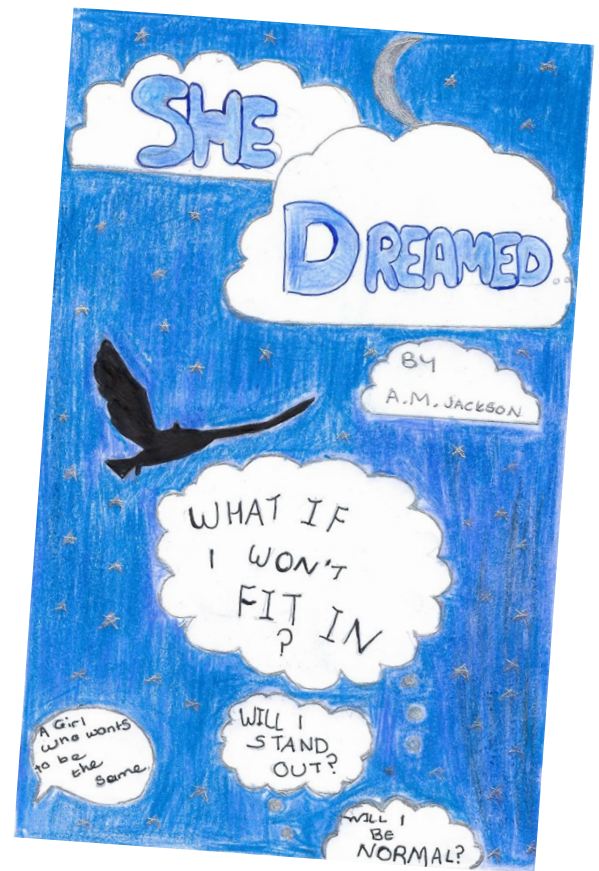
When the guns stopped

Just for a day

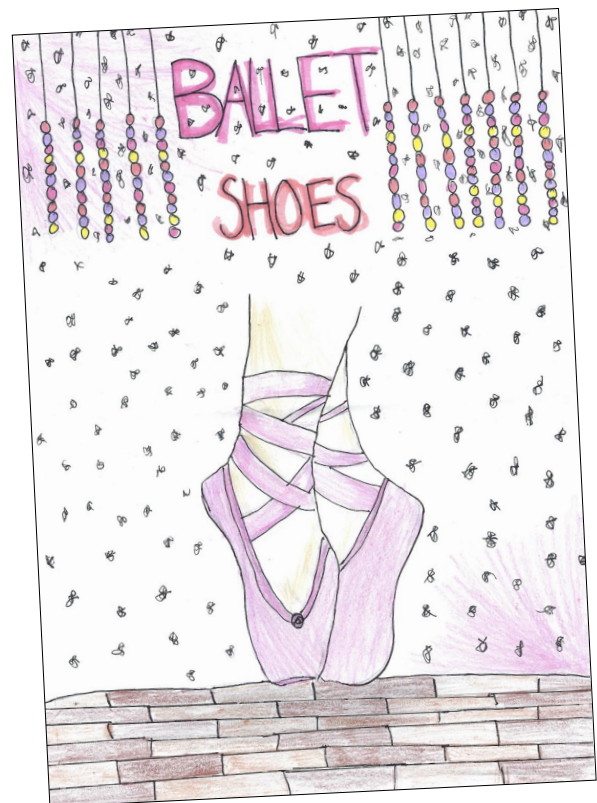
When the guns stated we went back to war

Poppies blowing in the wind lay down our
heads with remorse

When the guns stopped



Cecilia (Yr 7)



Ria(Yr 7)

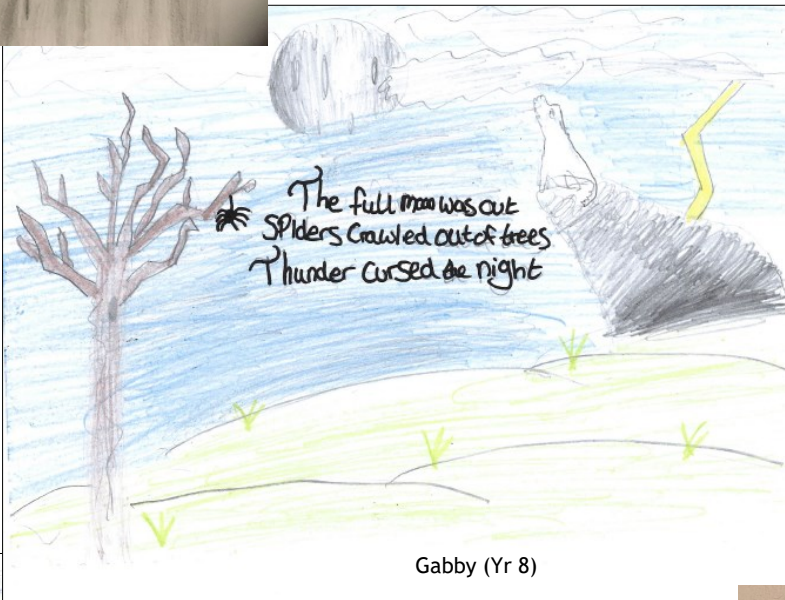


Amy (Yr 7)

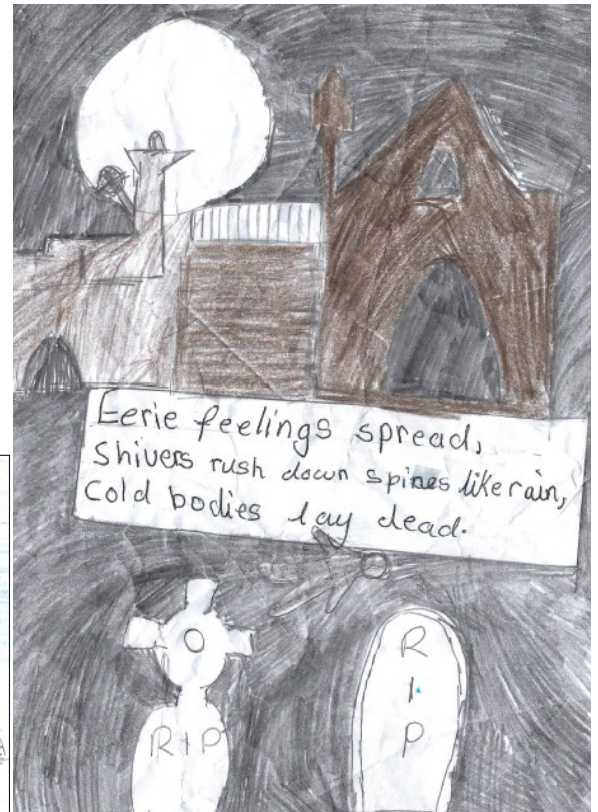


Charlotte (Yr 10)

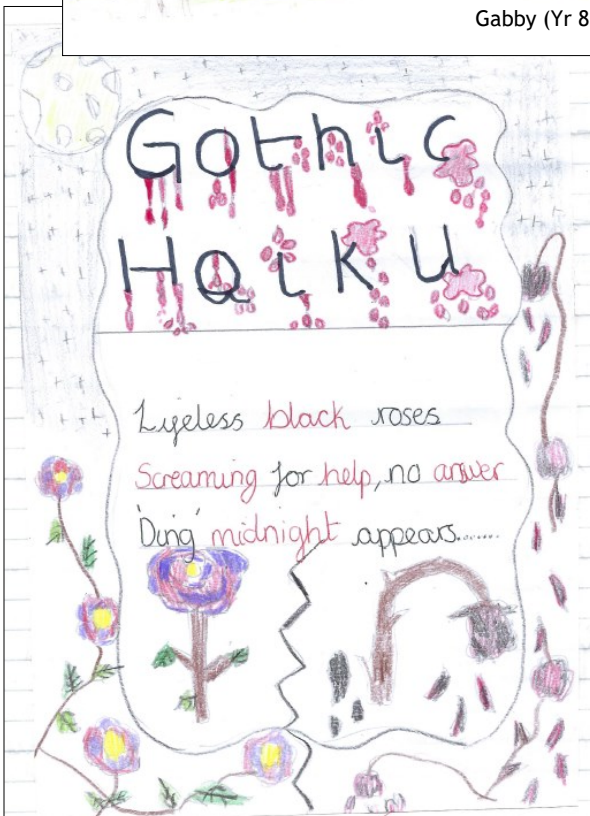
Gothic Haikus



Gabby (Yr 8)



Victoria (Yr 8)



Ameeha (Yr 8)



Emily (Yr 10)

Victim or a villain?

By Iqra (Yr 11)

Mary Tudor,
We've all heard of her before,
Her life, from birth until her death.
We all knew her actions, when she was Queen.
But alas for her subjects they weren't very clean,
But was she a villain?
Or a victim?

Mary had a perfect life until it changed,
Her father divorced and remarried again,
She was stripped from her titles and called lots of names,
She was welcomed back to the court, after the marriage of his fifth wife Catherine Howard.
When her father died, her younger brother Edward came to the throne.
He was a Protestant. He didn't like Catholics at all.
After his death, Mary still wasn't Queen.

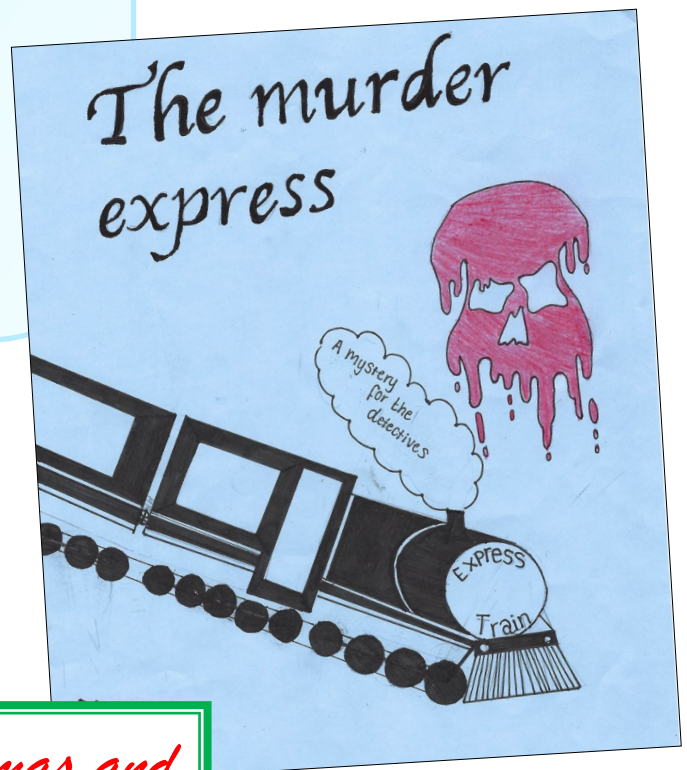
Edward made it clear that his teenage cousin Lady Jane Grey was the true Queen.
But according to her father's will,
Mary was next and people supported her as rightful ruler.
Finally, she made it and Jane was beheaded,
She wanted an heir, so she married Phillip II of Spain.
But really, she married him for nothing.
She didn't have any children and he left her alone.

She earned the nickname of Bloody Mary.
Was she a villain, or just the victim of pain?

Many thanks to all the students who entered the Library Christmas card competition. We have published some of our amazing entries in this newsletter. However, as this goes to print more are still arriving and they will all be put on display in the Library.

Iqra (Yr 11) recommends her favourite soundtrack from Elizabeth (1998).

['Elizabeth' \(1998\) soundtrack- 1](#)



Johara (Yr 7)



*Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year!*