

Reading for Pleasure @ Horsforth School: Half-Term 5

School Stories

In Term Two, there have been lots of excellent events to promote a love of reading at Horsforth School. To celebrate World Book Day, students completed a range of engaging activities throughout the week including quizzes, short stories and a fantastic book-themed baking competition with Sam O'Neill and Emilia Murrucane coming out as the joint winners! Horsforth staff also embraced the excitement by dressing up on Friday 7th March and students completed a treasure hunt to find out who the characters were!

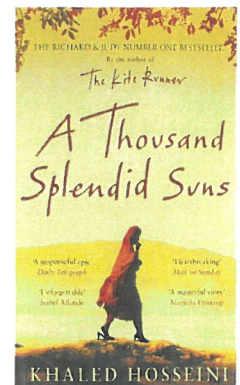
30 Year 7 students were successful in breaking a Guinness World Record for the largest poetry workshop ever with poet Lara Mucha - what an achievement! Finally, in March, acclaimed author Antony McGowan visited Horsforth school to talk to Year 7 about reading, writing and growing up in Leeds. Students asked brilliant questions and even listened to Antony reading an extract from his new book: *The Beck*.

Staff Shelfie: Mr Wilson, Assistant Headteacher

"I loved all sorts of texts as a teenager and first gained a love of reading from the sports sections of newspapers with my grandad, before developing an interest in a whole host of genres.

Khaled Hosseini would be my favourite contemporary writer; his ability to transport you to the Middle East and immerse you in the narrative is incredible - my favourite is *A Thousand Splendid Sun*.

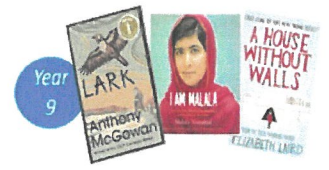
At the moment, I'm reading *Tyger* by SF Said - an excellent piece of young adult fiction full of mystery and magic!"



Student Competition: Celebrating Diversity

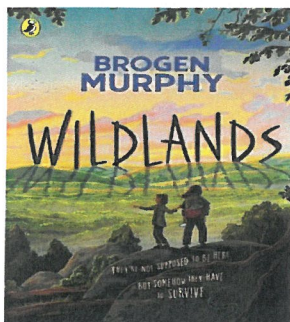
Each half term, we will be promoting a creative competition for all students to enter! Over the next five weeks, up until 23rd May, students are challenged to come up with their best pieces of work! 21st May 2025 marks the World Day for Cultural Diversity and to celebrate this, the activity is for students to create a piece around the title: *The beauty of the world lies in the diversity of its people*. This could be a short story, poem, speech or other creative form but must be no more than 500 words. Complete and email to Mr Wilson or hand to your English teacher by Friday 23rd May!

Horsforth School Reading Curriculum



Recommended Reads

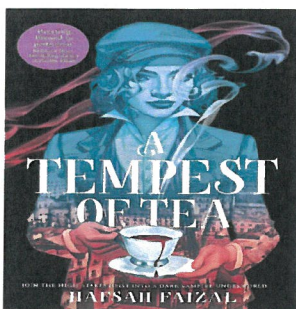
Key Stage 3



A utopian future. A forbidden wilderness. Two sisters trying to survive.

Twenty-five years into the future, no humans are allowed in the Wildlands - a vast area in Britain where wolves, lynx and bison roam free. The only exception is a high-speed train line between London and Glasgow that crosses right through the heart of the project. Thirteen-year-old Astrid and her little sister, Indie, are onboard when their train slows to a brief, unexpected stop ... and they find themselves accidentally left behind. Stranded in this place of astonishing natural wonders and terrible dangers, they have only a rucksack, a phone without signal - and each other. As every wrong turn takes them deeper into the Wildlands, do they have the ingenuity and determination to survive?

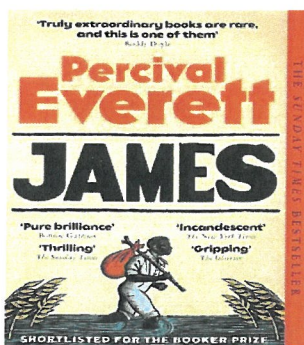
Key Stage 4



On the streets of White Roaring, Arthie Casimir is a criminal mastermind and collector of secrets. Her prestigious tearoom transforms into an illegal bloodhouse by dark, catering to the vampires feared by society. But when her establishment is threatened, Arthie is forced to strike an unlikely deal with an alluring adversary to save it - and she can't do the job alone.

Calling on some of the city's most skilled outcasts, Arthie hatches a plan to infiltrate the dark and glittering vampire society known as the Athereum. But not everyone in her ragtag crew is on her side, and as the truth behind the heist unfolds, Arthie finds herself in the midst of a conspiracy that will threaten the world as she knows it.

Key Stage 5



The Mississippi River, 1861. When the enslaved Jim overhears that he is about to be sold to a new owner in New Orleans and separated from his wife and daughter forever, he flees to nearby Jackson's Island until he can formulate a plan. Meanwhile, Huck Finn has faked his own death to escape his violent father who recently returned to town.

So begins a dangerous and transcendent journey along the Mississippi River, towards the elusive promise of the free states and beyond. As James and Huck navigate the treacherous waters, each bend in the river holds the promise of both salvation and demise. And together, the unlikely pair embark on the most life-changing odyssey of them all.

