

Reading for Pleasure @ Horsforth School: Half-Term Four and Five

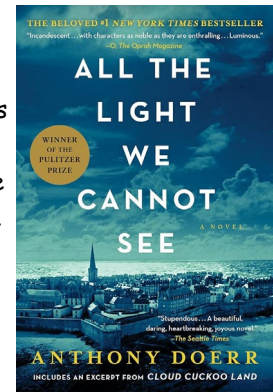
School Stories

On Tuesday 24th February, Horsforth School was lucky enough to host Maria Ferguson for a poetry slam workshop. 100 year 7 and 8s took part and groups of students competed head-to-head in a poetry slam down; the poems and performances were sensational. However, there were two stand-out groups who will be going to the Poetry Slam Final in April to compete against other schools in Leeds - I think we have a winning team!

World Book Day at Horsforth School was an entire week from the 2nd to 5th March and what an incredible celebration of books and literature! On Monday, forms competed in a World Book Day Quiz! On Tuesday, students had fun at breaktime making bookmarks. On Wednesday we had a RECORD for the most book-themed cakes ever in the Great Bookish Bake Off. We were absolutely ASTOUNDED at the quality, talent and number of students that took part in this challenge. On Thursday, forms in school had fun writing a 5 word short story, made famous by Ernest Hemmingway. On Friday, some of the teachers in school were replaced by some well-known literary characters. Nearly 50 members of staff dressed up, and students had fun searching for each character around school in a treasure hunt. The winning staff costume, voted by students, was Mr Maxwell as Willy Wonka.

Staff Shelfie: Mr Lonsdale

A recent favourite I have read is 'All The Light We Cannot See' by Anthony Doerr. It's set in France in World War Two and tells the story of two young people with very different lives whose paths eventually and inevitably converge. One character is a blind French girl who is on the run from the Nazis with her father and a priceless diamond from the museum that he works at. The other main character is a young German soldier whose job is to find out where she and the diamond are hiding by detecting their radio signals. It's very cleverly written in that each chapter takes it in turn to tell the protagonists' stories, meaning that you can't wait to get to the next chapter to pick up where you left them. Interesting fact: it took Anthony Doerr ten years to complete the book!



Student Competition: World Book Day 2026

Each half term, we will be promoting a creative competition for all students to enter! Over 30 students submitted entries for our 'In Someone Else's Shoes' competition and the winner was Hettie Rhodes in 90 who received a £20 Amazon voucher: [World Book Week Writing Competition Winner 2026](#)

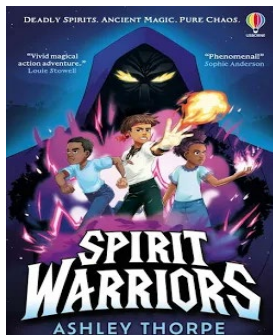
The challenge for this edition of the Reading Newsletter is focused on looking ahead to our 2nd Horsforth School Culture Day in June. Students are challenged to produce a piece of creative writing with the title 'A Sense of Belonging'. Entries can be submitted via email to Mr Wilson or to English teachers by Friday 1st May.

Horsforth School Reading Curriculum



Recommended Reads

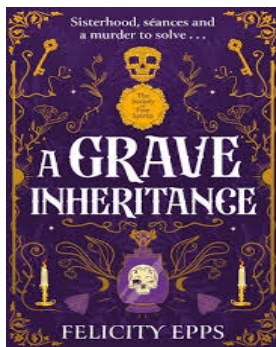
Key Stage 3



Ancient magic and all-new heroes in a battle between the living and the dead - an epic story of chaos, myth and adventure for fans of Percy Jackson, from the author of *The Boy to Beat the Gods*.

When her island home is overrun by evil spirits, Evie is saved only by the powerful gemstone her parents entrusted to her. Her best friend Arthur is not so lucky - caught in the magical crossfire, he finds himself in the body of a cat. On a mission to return him to his body and defeat the ghouls, Evie and Arthur team up with Cai, a trainee shaman, who helps them discover the truth. The terrifying Blackheart Man is plotting to steal the island's four magical gemstones. It will take all of Evie's magic, Cai's bravery and Arthur's talent for thievery to stop him.

Key Stage 4



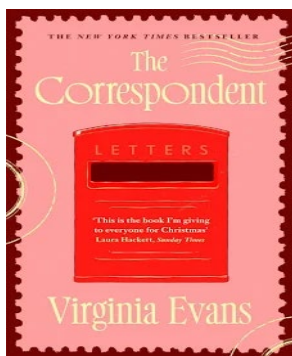
Mysterious deaths in the family. A young woman left to inherit a fortune.

After her father and older sister both die suddenly, Dolores is left with the family's inheritance, and a large house she's sure is haunted. Teaming up with her occult-obsessed neighbour, Ada, and the mysterious spiritual medium, Violet, the three girls plan to dispel the bad spirits from Dolores' home.

But when Dolores uncovers a clue that suggests her sister Edith's death wasn't due to natural causes, what starts as an investigation into ghostly apparitions develops into the unravelling of something far more sinister. . .

Ghosts. Murder. The patriarchy. *One should never underestimate what a trio of free-spirited young women can handle.*

Key Stage 5



Every morning, Sybil Van Antwerp sits down to write letters - to her brother, to her best friend, to the president of the university who will not allow her to attend a class she desperately wants to take, to her favourite authors to tell them what she thinks of their latest books, and to one person to whom she writes often yet never sends the letter.

Because at seventy-three, Sybil has used her correspondence - witty and wise - to make sense of the world. But beyond the page, she has spent the last thirty years keeping the people who love her at arms' length...

Now, Sybil must send the letter she has been writing for all these years - and find forgiveness within herself to move on.

