

Reading Newsletter



NEW RELEASES

'Intermezzo' by Sally Rooney

Any new Rooney novel is a real treat! 'Intermezzo' explores bereavement and age-gap relationships in a breathtakingly intimate tale of two brothers and the women they turn to.

You can read a review of the novel and Rooney's distinctive prose style in 'The London Review of Books'.

<https://www.lrb.co.uk/the-paper/v46/n18/joanna-biggs/glimpses-of-utopia>

MS JESSON IS READING . . .



'My Friends' by Hisham Matar

This is one of those novels that is going to stay with me - I couldn't stop thinking about it. A profound exploration of friendship across thirty years, 'My Friends' traces the lives of three Libyan men living in London as political exiles. The political violence of Gaddafi's dictatorship hovers above the novel, and Matar weaves real examples of such violence into his fictional landscape. I was so taken by the novel that I'm going to read Matar's memoir '**The Return**' which describes his father's abduction by Gaddafi's forces, his disappearance into the dictator's prisons, and Matar's decades-long quest to discover his fate.

Ms. Jesson

MRS RODGER IS READING . . .

Tower of Dawn by Sarah J Maas
Hysterical by Dr Pragya Agrwal

I love to read two books at the same time, switching between genres and alternating between escapism and more cerebral, challenging texts. The first book I'm reading is the penultimate novel in a fantasy series - I've absolutely loved the blend of romance, adventure and thriller within the whole Throne of Glass series. I'm also really enjoying **Hysterical**, which is a blend of psychology, sociology and biology, exploring how emotions have been gendered as masculine or feminine throughout history. It's so useful for exploring literary texts, and is genuinely interesting to see how anger is often coded as a 'strong' masculine emotion, whereas sadness is coded as feminine.

Next up on my list is '**Unwell Women: a Journey through Medicine and Myth in a Man's World**' by Elinor Cleghorn.

Mrs Rodger

MRS DE VITO IS READING . . .

'Wakenhyrst' by Michelle Paver



I love a little bit of escapism as well as a Gothic story and '**Wakenhyrst**' offers the reader both. Set in the fens, and spanning five centuries, the reader is introduced to the narrator Maud - a lonesome girl who suspects her father has done something terrible when he finds a painted medieval devil in a graveyard, and unhallowed forces are disturbed. I cannot put this book down and feel as if it has cast a spell over me, urging me to continue reading to unveil the next chapter of horror and terror that awaits!

Next on my pile is '**The Magician**' by Colm Tóibín - Tóibín is a superb writer who is able to transport the reader into a world of characters who we feel great sympathy for; an instant connection to and who we want to be friends with, so we can offer them support and advice as they ultimately make mistakes. Having read two of his other novels ('**Brooklyn**' and '**Long Island**'), I am eagerly anticipating this one will be just as absorbing!

Mrs De Vito

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MRS MORRELL IS READING . . .

'Glutton: The Multi-Course Life of a Very Greedy Boy' by Comedian Ed Gamble.

Gamble, often billed as the 'diabetic comedian' hosts the food podcast 'Off Menu' with fellow comedian James Acaster. This book made me laugh out loud from start to finish. If you love your food, hated the limitations of the "children's menu" as a child, and you've ever wondered how many pizzas is too many pizzas, this book is for you.

Inspired by Gambles' often immature storytelling, my next read will be fellow-comedian James Acaster's **'Classic Scrapes'** in which he promises to delight readers with the most embarrassing moments from his past.

Mrs Morrell



HAVE YOU SEEN. . . ?



Recent Literary Articles

- A review of a new edition of the 'Selected Letters' of **Wilfred Owen**. The essay explores the development of Owen's style and his literary influences, including Keats and Sassoon

<https://www.lrb.co.uk/the-paper/v46/n18/mark-ford/sunday-best>

- A review of **Thomas Hardy's poetry**, focusing particularly on his relationship with his wife Emma, the lyrical poetry he produced after her death and how these impacted his relationship with the second Mrs Hardy!

<https://www.lrb.co.uk/the-paper/v46/n19/matthew-bevis/i-prefer-my-mare>

MRS TOPPING SHAW IS READING . . .

Collected Poems by Wendy Cope

Nearly 40 years after **Making Cocoa for Kingsley Amis** catapulted Cope to fame, here's a chance to revel in the work of one of our greatest poets. Her poetry stands unsurpassed in its popularity and technical accomplishment – there's no better contemporary writer of forms such as the triolet – and in the wit, acuity and seriousness of purpose with which she shows us what it is to be human. A delight!

Mrs Topping Shaw

MRS BARLOW IS READING . . .

'We Solve Murders' by Richard Osman

Crime fiction- but not too gory!- is my guilty pleasure. My next read is going to be **"As Long as the Lemon Trees Grow"** by Zoulfa Katouh. It has had a lot of great reviews and depicts a family living amidst the Syrian revolution.

Mrs Barlow

POETRY PLEASE!!

Young Poets Network

The challenge: write a poem inspired by the world of cinema.

<https://ypn.poetrysociety.org.uk/workshop/the-film-poetry-challenge-with-the-bill-douglas-cinema-museum/>

Closing Date: Thursday 17th November 2024



As part of this challenge, the Young Poets Network is running a free writing workshop for 14-25 year olds via Zoom on **Saturday 26 October**. They will be exploring the tools of filmmaking, including montages, vignettes, and lenses, to explore the creative possibilities of conjuring poetic cinematic universes. A recording of the workshop will be made available upon request if you are unable to attend on the day.

NEED MORE INSPIRATION . . . ?

Don't forget you can find **KS5 English Literature reading lists** on the VLE.

There are reading lists to complement set texts as well as wider reading lists which cover texts from The Middle Ages to contemporary prose. Each text on the list includes a brief precis so you can decide if it's for you or not.

Happy Reading!