

Welcome to the English Department at St Joseph's College! We are very much looking forward to meeting you and working with you in September.

Unfortunately due to the current climate, transition tasks activities have been cancelled so we won't meet in person. However, by completing this booklet you have been set some tasks that we would like you to undertake in preparation for beginning your secondary school career in English.

Favourite Book

We are a huge department here are some of the teachers. Throughout the booklet, you can find out the our favourite books and write it in the spaces below. Have fun!



Mrs Horner

Favourite book:

Mrs Owen

Favourite books:

Mr Farrah

Favourite book:

Mr Henry

Favourite book:

Ms Olusamokun

Favourite book:

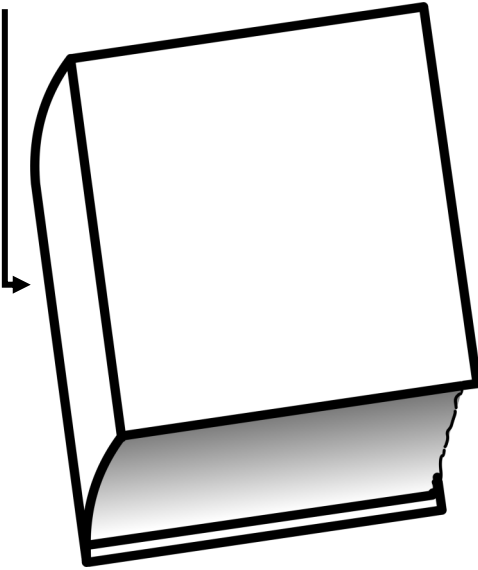
Miss Acheng

Favourite book:

Book Review

1. First, we would like you to read a book! It needs to be a book you have never read before. Then, we would like you to complete the book review below.

Create your own book cover



Title _____

Author _____

Illustrator _____

Genre tick as many that apply to your book.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> fiction | <input type="checkbox"/> scary | <input type="checkbox"/> animal story |
| <input type="checkbox"/> non-fiction | <input type="checkbox"/> fairy-tale | <input type="checkbox"/> biography |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fantasy | <input type="checkbox"/> adventure | <input type="checkbox"/> historical |
| <input type="checkbox"/> humour | <input type="checkbox"/> sports | <input type="checkbox"/> mystery |

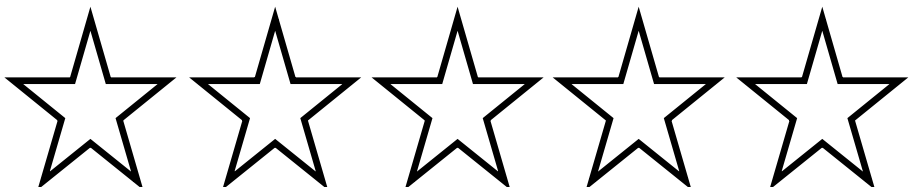
Plot:

Setting:

Favourite part:

Characters:

My Star Rating:



Dictionary Challenge

I. Complete the following word challenges. You can use a dictionary to help you!

Put the following adjectives in alphabetical order:

enthusiastic

recalcitrant

taciturn

perceptive

valiant

tactful

extravagant

diligent

sarcastic

apprehensive

contemptuous

slapdash

conscientious

assertive

2. Look up any words from the above list which you don't know and underline all the words which apply to you!

3. Identify whether the following words are an adjective, verb or noun (or more than one). Use the dictionary to help you.

a) share _____

h) stop _____

b) open _____

i) lift _____

c) save _____

j) tap _____

d) aim _____

k) wait _____

e) work _____

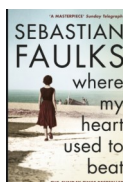
l) clean _____

f) spoke _____

m) shape _____

g) light _____

n) peel _____



Mrs Horner's favourite book is '*Where My Heart Used to Be*' by Sebastian Folks, written in 2015.

Folks is best known for his romantic wartime novels. Can you think of any historical novels?

Genre: Historical fiction

Text analysis

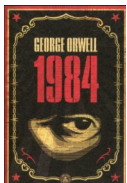
Below is an extract from a novel called 'Private Peaceful' by Michael Morpurgo and describes soldiers in World War I ambushed by a surprise attack on their camp. You may have already read this book, or some of his other books.

What to do: Read this extract, and as you are reading, highlight any passages that describe the gas attack.

We were lulled by the blue skies perhaps, or by sheer boredom. Fritz seemed to have gone to sleep on us and as far as we were concerned that suited us fine. We thought we could go to sleep too. The awakening came suddenly. "Gas! Gas!"

The cry goes up and is echoed all along the trench. For a moment we are frozen with panic. We have trained for this time and again, but nonetheless we fumble clumsily, feverishly with our gas masks.

The gas is only feet away now. In a moment it will be on me, around me, in me. I crouch down, hiding my face between my knees, hands over my helmet, praying it will float over my head, over the top of the trench, seek out someone else. But it does not. It's all around me. I tell myself I will not breathe, I must not breathe. Through a yellow mist I see the trench filling up with it. It drifts into the dugouts, snaking into every nook and cranny, looking for me. I see men running, staggering, falling. I see Pete shouting out for me. Then he's grabbing me and we run. Half-blinded by my mask I trip and fall, crashing my head against the trench wall, knocking myself half-senseless. My gas mask has come off. I pull it down, but I have breathed in and know already it's too late. My eyes are stinging. My lungs are burning. I am coughing, retching, choking. I don't care where I'm running so long as it is away from the gas. At last I'm in the reserve trench and it is clear of gas. I'm out of it. I wrench off my mask, gasping for good air. Then I am on my hands and knees, vomiting violently. When at last the worst is over I look up through blurred and weeping eyes. A Hun in a gas mask is standing over me, his rifle aimed at my head.



Miss Acheng's favourite book is '*Nineteen Eighty Four*' by George Orwell, first published in 1949 and is regarded as one of the greatest classics of all time. What would a perfect world look like?

Genre: Dystopian fiction

Now that you have read this extract, write a paragraph answering the following question:

How does the writer use language to make this gas attack seem so scary for the soldier?

You should follow the What?How?Why? structure to explore the writer's choice of:

- Words and phrases
- Language features and techniques
- Anything else that is interesting to you



What is the writer doing in the extract to make the gas attack seem scary?

How is the writer doing this? (methods and quotations)




Why is the writer making these choices about the extract? (how does he want us to think/feel/imagine?)



Mr Henry's favourite book is, '*Prisoners of Geography*' by Tim Marshall originally published in 2019. This book explains the intersection of geography, history and politics, and how all combine to create society as we know it. When was the last time you looked at a map? Did you find anything interesting?
Genre: Non-fiction

Questions to make you think why

What to do: Answer the questions below, giving reason for your point of view. This will help you develop your explanations in writing as well.

1. If you could only watch one sport for the rest of your life, which sport would it be?	
2. If you could play a part in any film or TV programme, which one would it be?	
3. If you got the chance, would you want to visit another planet or another country? Say which one you would choose.	
4. Who do you think should be paid the bigger salary—footballers or nurses?	
5. If you could only eat one type of food for the rest of your life, what would it be?	
6. If you could only have five tracks on your playlist, which tracks would you choose and why?	
7. Would you rather go on an adventure holiday where you are climbing mountains and camping or a holiday where you sit on a beach all day?	



Mrs Olusamokun's favourite book is '*Things Fall Apart*' by Chinua Achebe originally published in 1958. The novel explores pre-colonial life in the south-eastern part of Nigeria and the arrival of Europeans during the late 19th century. Have you read any books written by an author from your country?

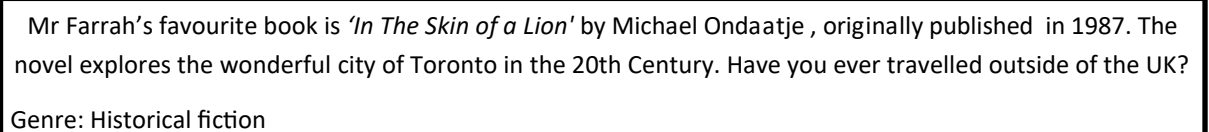
Genre: Historical fiction

Creative Writing—200 Word Challenge

What to do: We would like to see what kind of creative writer you are. We would like you to write a 200-300 word descriptive piece based on the picture below. It can have a story to it, if you like, or just be purely descriptive. Remember that you need to be accurate with your writing, so you will need to:

- Paragraph your work
- Make sure your sentences have the correct punctuation
- Choose your vocabulary carefully, especially adjectives, verbs and adverbs

[illegible]





Word search



What to do: Find the key words

S	I	M	I	L	E		Y	O	R	S	A
M	Q	Z	Z	C	X	D	Q	N	Z	Q	L
Y	U	S	E	E	C	E	A	O	D	M	L
N	C	E	M	N	L	S	D	M	S	E	I
S	I	E	O	A	A	C	J	A	S	T	T
E	H	X	T	R	M	R	E	T	W	A	E
T	B	E	I	R	A	I	C	O	L	P	R
V	J	G	V	A	T	P	T	P	F	H	A
R	E	P	E	T	I	T	I	O	N	O	T
M	W	R	Q	O	O	I	V	E	V	R	I
X	A	E	B	R	N	O	E	I	H	X	O
W	Q	U	R	S	J	N	S	A	R	I	N

ADJECTIVES
ALLITERATION
DESCRIPTION
EMOTIVE
EXCLAMATION
METAPHOR
NARRATOR
ONOMATOPOEIA
REPETITION
SIMILE
THEME
VERBS



Mrs Owen's favourite books are '*Tess of the d'Urbervilles*' by Thomas Hardy, original published in 1891. Genre: tragedy. Also '*To Kill A Mocking Bird*' by Harper Lee, originally published in 1960. Genre: southern-gothic

Can you remember a time when you had to make a hard decision?

