



QUEENS' SCHOOL
Dare to Write

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2024:

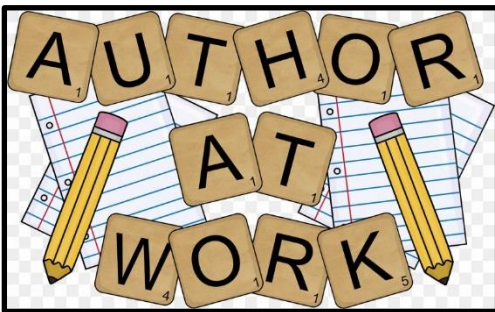
BOOK REVIEWS AND CLUB:

September saw the re-launch of the English Department's book review competition. This year the competition will be both inter-form and inter-house. Just as last year, there will be exciting prizes for the most reviews submitted by each form in Years 7, 8 and 9 and a prize for the individual who submits the most impressive reviews. We are incredibly excited to see which house will come out as our first group of champion readers. Congratulations to 7FX for being the top form so far!



If you are interested in reading or talking about books, there is a Tuesday Book Club after school in the library from 3.15pm for Year 7s.

WRITING CLUBS:



We have also launched two new creative writing clubs on Wednesdays. One for Years 9-13 in room 3 with Miss Grimston at lunchtime and one for Years 7 and 8 in room 4 with Miss Dennis after school from 3-4pm. This is a great opportunity to expand your creative writing skills covering a range of different forms of writing including plays, film/television scripts as well as stories in a variety of genres.

VOCABULOUS:

We are also running our Vocabulous programme again this year with Year 7. Students are encouraged to watch a range of videos to help them learn root words based on their Latin and Greek origins. Inspired by the gods, students work their way through a variety of levels to develop their ability to recognise new vocabulary from their roots. Congratulations to 7FX our top performing Year 7 form so far. Follow English@Queens' on X to see our weekly word of the week.



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HOMEWORK CLUBS

If any students are struggling with home learning, they can join us at homework club in room 7 every week.

Key Stage 3: Wednesday 3pm-3.45pm

Key Stage 4: Thursday 3pm – 3.45pm

NATIONAL POETRY DAY – POETRY COMPETITION – COUNTING

This year National Poetry Day was October 3rd. We are running a school wide competition to find the best poem. This year’s theme is counting. Why not get inspired by listening to Michael Rosen’s brilliant poem around this theme?

<https://audioboom.com/posts/7768041-counting-by-michael-rosen>

If you would like to enter, please submit your entries to either your English teacher or Mrs Greatrex in the library. There will be a lower and upper school prize. We are also hoping to run an English exhibition at the end of the year where the best entries will be put on display.



POEM OF THE MONTH

To promote a love for poetry, every month we explore the poem of the month with Key Stage 3 students. This not only gets students used to thinking about and interpreting poetry independently but prepares them for these elements of the GCSE exam. Here are the poems we have covered so far:

SEPTEMBER: ‘The First Time I Wore Hearing Aids’ by Richard Antrobus

OCTOBER: ‘How to Cut a Pomegranate’ by Imtiaz Dharker

WHAT SHALL I READ?

Every month, the English department offer a Key Stage 3 and adult recommended read of the month. You will find our recommendations for September and October below. If you would like to find regular recommendations, then follow us on X: English@Queens’. You can also find further book recommendations on the Queens’ School website:

<https://www.queens.herts.sch.uk/students/lrc/reading-lists/>

ROOT WORD OF THE WEEK - 1

MICRO

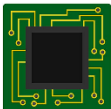


MEANING: VERY SMALL, MINUTE OR SHORT

GREEK

MICROBE (n) a microorganism especially a bacterium causing disease

MICROSCOPE (n) – an optical instrument used for viewing very small objects



MICROCHIP (n) – a small wafer of semiconducting material used to make an integrated circuit.

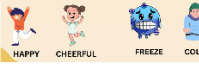
ROOT WORD OF THE WEEK - 2

NYM

MEANING: NAME

GREEK

WORDS THAT HAVE SAME MEANINGS



SYNONYM (n) a word or phrase that means exactly or nearly the same as the name of another word

ACRONYM (n) – an abbreviation formed from the initial letters of other words and pronounced as a single name



PSEUDONYM (n) – a made-up name especially used by an author



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ROOT WORD OF THE WEEK - 3

GNOS



MEANING: KNOW

GREEK

DIAGNOSIS (n) the identification of the nature of an illness or other problem based on symptoms and knowledge

PROGNOSTICATE (v) – to give a judgement about what is likely to happen in the future



AGNOSTIC (n) – a person who believes that nothing is known or can be known



ROOT WORD OF THE WEEK - 4

CERT

MEANING: SURE

LATIN



ASCERTAIN (v) – to find something out for certain

CERTAIN (adj) – to be firmly relied on to be happen or be the case



CERTIFY (v) – to attest authoritatively or confirm



ROOT WORD OF THE WEEK - 5

PSYCH



MEANING: MIND OR MENTAL

GREEK

PSYCHOLOGICAL (adj) – affecting the mind or related to a person's mental or emotional state

PSYCHIC (n) – a medium or relating to the soul or mind



PSYCHE (n) – the human mind or spirit



ROOT WORD OF THE WEEK - 6

CRYPTO

MEANING: HIDDEN OR SECRET

GREEK



ENCRYPTION (n) – the process of converting information or data into code

CRYPTOGRAPHY (n) – the art of writing or solving codes



CRYPTIC (adj) – having a meaning that is mysterious or obscure



ARTEFACT OF THE WEEK - 1 - PRIMA PORTA STATUE

WHAT?:

Miss Wood's favourite statue is this a full-length marble statue of the first Roman Emperor – Augustus. It features Cupid at his feet reflecting Augustus' supposed divine links to Venus. The breastplate feature the return of the Roman legion standards by the Parthians as well as several gods and goddesses.

WHEN?:

It was discovered in 1863 and created in the 1st Century AD

WHERE?:

The Villa of Livia in Prima Porta. It is now in the Vatican Museum



WHAT?:

This is a Panathenaic amphora that would have been awarded to winners in the Panathenaic Games. On one side is Athena with helmet and shield. The other side depicts the event that this would have been awarded for – a running race. The amphora would have been filled with olive oil linked to Athena's gift to Athens.

WHEN?:

Dated to the 5th Century BC.

WHERE?:

Athens. It can now be found in the British Museum.



ARTEFACT OF THE WEEK - 3 - PENTHEUS KYLIX

WHAT?:

This is a kylix (drinking cup) depicting the gruesome death of Pentheus, a mythical king of Thebes. Having offended Dionysus and forbidden his worship, he is tricked into spying on the Maenads, his worshippers. When they mistake him for a wild animal, he is torn limb from limb.

WHEN?:

Douris painter - 500-460BC

WHERE?:

Athens. Now in the Kimball Art Museum, Texas.



ARTEFACT OF THE WEEK - 4 - SACRIFICE OF IPHIGENIA Fresco

WHAT?:

A fresco from the House of the Tragic Poet in Pompeii. Iphigenia is being torn away potentially by Ulysses and Diomedes to sacrificed on the orders of the goddess Diana who appears in the sky. The priest Calchas who had translated the goddesses' wishes and prevented the Greeks sailing away from Aulis to Troy looks on with a knife whilst her father, Agamemnon plaintively covers his face. Above, a nymph offers a deer to Diane as a substitute.

WHEN?:

Found in 1824. Created around the second century BC.

WHERE?:

Pompeii, House of the Tragic Poet, Via di Nola



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WHAT?:

One of the best preserved ancient Greek theatres. It is located next to the shrine of Asclepius, the God of medicine and son of Apollo. It retains the typical shape of an ancient Greek theatre with curved shape, cavea, orchestral space. It has a capacity of 13-14,000



WHEN?:

End of the 4th Century BC

WHERE?:

Epidauros, Greece

WHAT?:

A gold funerary mask, it was discovered in a grave with eight armoured men. Heinrich Schliemann, who discovered the artefact, initially believed he may have discovered the body of the Mycenaean king, Agamemnon who was the leader of the Achaeans in the Trojan War although it is likely the mask pre-dates the mythical war.



WHEN?:

Discovered in 1876. Dating from 1550-1500 BC.

WHERE?:

Mycenae, southern Greece.



SEPTEMBER RECOMMENDED READ – ADULT

'BABEL'

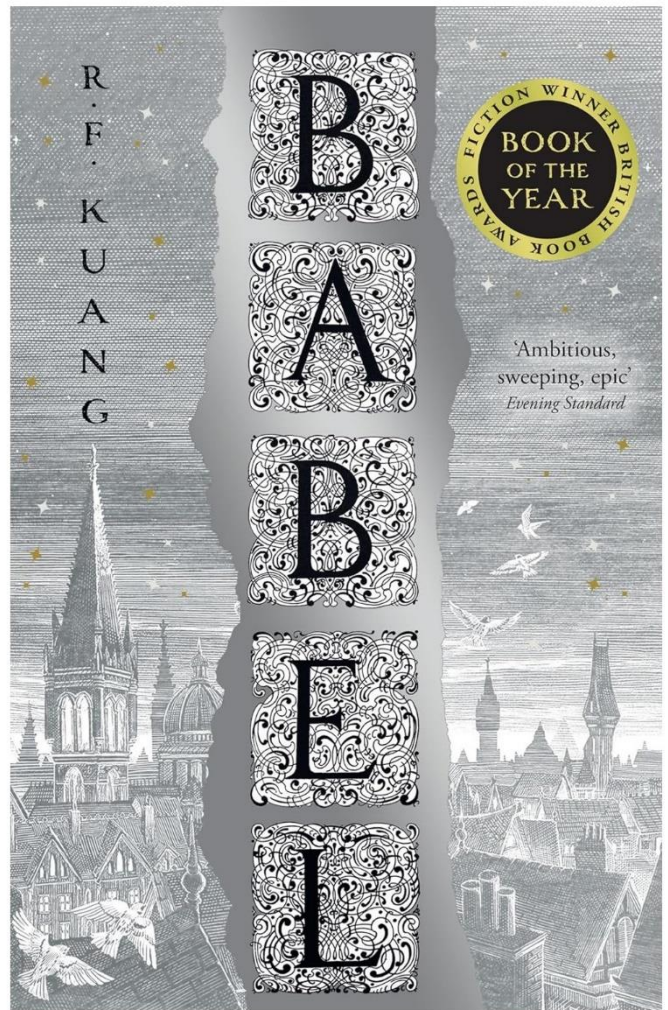
R.F.KUANG

Babel is an exceptional historical fantasy and will definitely be in my top ten books of the year. Combining 'The Heart of Darkness' with 'His Dark Materials', Kuang has created something truly unique in this epic novel.

Orphaned in Canton, Robin Swift is taken in by an Oxford linguistics professor where he is rigorously trained to join the elite academics at Oxford University's prestigious Royal Institute of Translation or Babel. Here, they will learn not merely the art of translation into multiple languages, but the skill of silver working – manifesting the meaning of words lost in translation that are used to enchant silver bars. However, it is these silver bars that have given the British Empire its power and ability to expand their empire and exploit the very communities and cultures from which many of the students of Babel originate. For all the magic and splendour of Babel, there are clearly darker forces at work that are manipulating, exploiting and deceiving the very children to whom they have provided a home.

However, Robin and his friends have a dilemma – do they enjoy the luxuries and knowledge that Babel offer them, or do they allow themselves to be caught up with the shadowy Hermes Society and fight against the oppression that is increasingly obvious across the globe.

This is a superb and propulsive narrative that simultaneously takes in vast and poignant themes: the traumatic impact of colonialism; the exploitation of the working class; racism; the power of language its etymologies. Sweeping, original and incredibly powerful, this is a must read for anyone interested in Victorian history or linguistics.



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SEPTEMBER RECOMMENDED READ – YOUNG ADULT

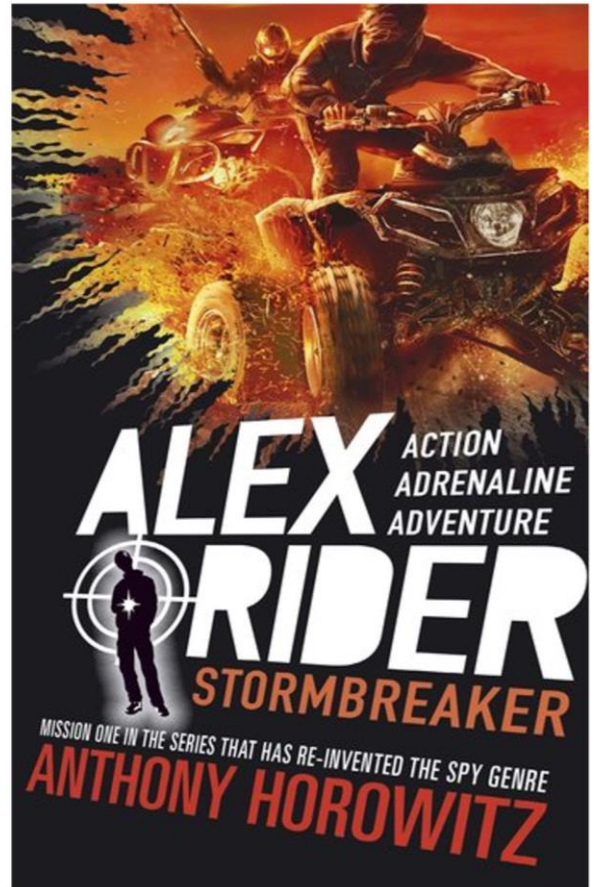
'STORMBREAKER' ANTHONY HOROWITZ

I appreciate that I am a little late to the Alex Rider party, but this is a great starting point particularly if you are looking for a book that might get boys into reading. This is the first in the Alex Rider series (there are 14 books in total so plenty to get your teeth into) as well as a film and television series linked to the novels.

Orphaned from a young age, Alex has been brought up by his elusive uncle, Ian Rider. However, when Ian dies under mysterious circumstances, Alex is determined to get to the bottom of what has happened to him no matter the cost. Alex quickly finds himself embroiled in a new world of spies, intrigue and nefarious villains. Fortunately, his uncle has secretly prepared him for this, training him to drive, ride, ski, climb and do karate from a young age. However, Alex will have to rely on more than just his physical skills to survive this mission – he will need wit, intelligence and most of all, courage if he is to prevent what could be the biggest disaster in British history.

Anthony Horowitz is one of the best modern children's writers and his Alex Rider series creates a compelling and dramatic narrative that is a real page-turner. Full of twists and turns, Horowitz takes the reader on a thrilling ride from London to the coast as Rider attempts to stop a notorious villain single-handedly.

This is a great read for anyone in year 7 upwards that will be especially enjoyed by those who love adventure and action.



OCTOBER RECOMMENDED READ – ADULT

'TRUST' HERNAN DIAZ

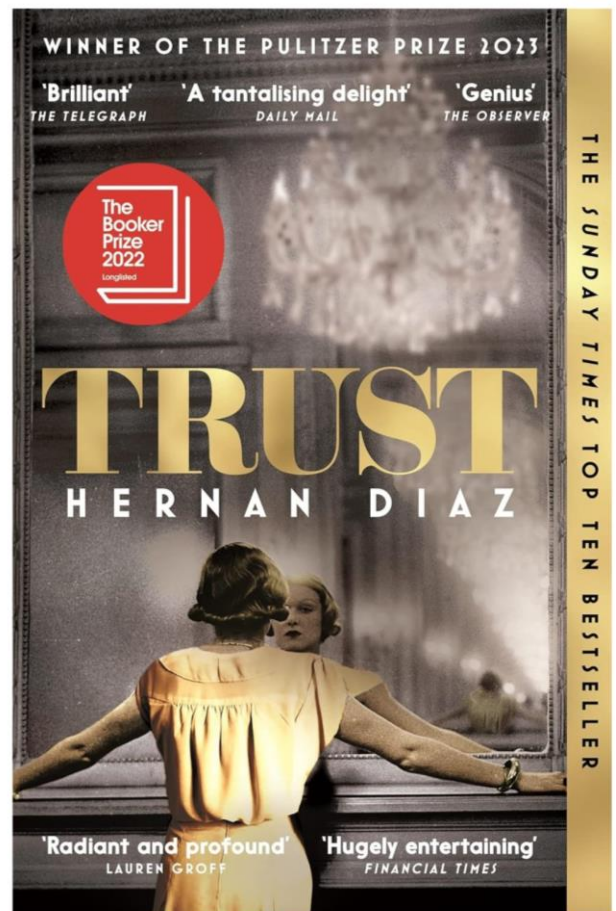
This is one of the best examples of the unreliable narrator that I have encountered. The novel is told in three parts: the first is an imagined novel written in 1938 about the legendary New York tycoon, Benjamin Rask and his wife. Reclusive, brilliant and utterly driven, Rask achieves unprecedented financial success even during the Wall Street Crash.

The second part is Rask's own biography written by a ghost writer. However, it is evident that the narrative he wishes to tell is meticulously manipulated to create a particular version of events and redeem his reputation from the novel that he will do anything to destroy. In his interactions with his writer, he constructs a carefully crafted persona of himself and the wife whom he seemingly adored but has now died under mysterious circumstances.

The third part created many years later is written again by the ghost writer as she desperately searches for the true version of events.

This is a multi-faceted epic that not only explores the tumultuous period of early-nineteenth century America, but also forces the reader to consider who we can truly 'Trust'. Can there ever be a single narrative version of events and how reliable are appearances or even words when everyone appears to wear a mask and wield words as weapons?

Listed on 'The New York Times' top 100 books of the 21st Century, this is a provocative and interesting read particularly for those who enjoy historical narratives or those driven by dark and intriguing characters.



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OCTOBER RECOMMENDED READ – YOUNG ADULT

‘SHADOW AND BONE’ LEIGH BARDUGO

This is a super fantasy trilogy – fast-paced, inventive and full of original characters. This will appeal to anyone who is a fan of the Netflix series (although this is not entirely accurate to the book) or to anyone who likes magical based fantasies set in dark and original worlds.

The first novel is set in the imaginary land of Ravka that has been divided in two by the Shadow Fold created many years before by a Darkling. Full of monstrous entities, the Fold is almost impossible to cross or remove except by a mythological Sun Summoner – a powerful Grisha who has never existed...yet.

However, when the orphans Alina and her best friend, Mal, are compelled to cross the Shadow Fold, Alina unleashes an immense power within herself that has never been seen before in order to protect them. Whilst she might have saved her best friend, she is also compelled to leave him behind and swept into the alluring world of the royal court with its charming new Darkling, beautiful Grisha and macabre intrigue where she will finally be trained to use her new powers that have lain dormant for so long.

This is a great novel for teenagers that has a propulsive narrative that will lead you into the remainder of the trilogy. Bardugo has created a vivid fantasy world full of magic and darkly compelling characters. You will undoubtedly want to read the whole trilogy that is available in Queens’ School library.



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