



BVS Reading Newsletter

Christmas Edition 2022



Welcome to our reading recommendations newsletter!

Each term, we will share with you reviews and information about books our pupils are currently enjoying. We encourage our pupils and their families to look through these to see if any may be of interest to them. In addition, we have reading lists by [year group](#) and [genre](#) on our website.

Happy reading!
The BVS Book Group

Book Group Feedback

All book group members are provided with free copies of the books we read!

The BVS Book Group is currently reading 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens. Year 10 pupil Lucy Hoskins finished the book incredibly quickly, and she wrote of it:

"This is a touching story filled with generosity and change ... the perfect book to fill you with the Christmas spirit! It's a story with a message that everyone can enjoy!"

The Book Group also enjoyed reading a range of Christmas short stories, several of which can be found free online here:

<https://teaandinksociety.com/classic-christmas-short-stories-read-online/>

Particular favourites included those by Louisa May Alcott and, of course, Dylan Thomas's 'A Child's Christmas in Wales.' They plan to read some Agatha Christie books in the Christmas holidays!



Listen In!

Poetry: For those who enjoy reading or listening to poems, the poem which we heard in the carol service, 'Christmas' by John Betjeman, is read by the poet here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AyZL9_To0_A

and Dick Van Dyke reads the Christmas classic 'T'was the Night Before Christmas' here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pLhnh1VOAoM>

Stories: For those of you prefer listening to stories, we have a full audio version of 'The Hobbit' (Dr. Freemantle's favourite book!) here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K_OABT6e10w

Our younger pupils and their families will not have had the opportunity to listen to this fantastic tale recorded especially for the school community and introduced by none other than Hollywood star Michael Sheen!

During the spring lockdown of 2021, we contacted the actor to ask whether he would consider beginning the narration of this wonderful tale of journeys and adventure as part of some extra-curricular activities we were putting together on the theme of journeys for our pupils, since we were all of course mostly confined to our homes. We were thrilled when he agreed and you can hear his message to Bishop Vaughan and his characterful narration of the tale's opening chapter.

From there, teachers and staff throughout the school take up the story and the book was streamed three times a week throughout the spring term, finishing just before Easter. You can now listen to the whole book over the Christmas holidays on the link above (just type the address into your browser if you are not reading this newsletter electronically). See how many of the staff you can identify from their reading of the story! We hope that you enjoy it!

BVS Book Group

When?
Wednesday lunchtimes

Where?
Headteacher's Office

What?
We meet each week to discuss the book we're reading together, to recommend books to one another and to plan reading-related trips and activities.

Currently Reading:
'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens
You are welcome to bring your lunch with you.
All welcome!



Staff Favourites:

Dr. Freemantle (Head of Maths):
'The Hobbit'; JRR Tolkien
"This was read to me as a child and each night I couldn't wait for the next chapter. I did the same with my son and he loved it too!"

Mrs. Wynne (Public Services):
'The Seven Sisters'; Lucinda Riley
"The whole series is full of tales of love, mystery and loss ... it takes you around the world and is inspired by the mythology of the famous star constellation."

Mrs. Braithwaite (Science Technician):
'The Cay'; Theodore Taylor
"This is based on a true story of survival after a shipwreck with the development of a moving relationship between the shipwreck victim and the person who ensures his survival."

Mrs. Thomas (RE; Head of Liturgy):
'Still Alice'; Lisa Genova
"This gave a real insight into the plight of people living with dementia and their families. Also, from my childhood: 'Little Women'; Louisa May Alcott and for those who would enjoy a local tale: 'The Qualities of Sand'; Alison Blanche - this is set in and around Swansea!"

Wise Words:

"That's the thing about books. They let you travel without moving your feet."

Jhumpa Lahiri

