



LRC

TERMLY MAGAZINE

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LRC News



LRC Pupil Librarian Team

On behalf of the Pupil Librarian Team, I would like to thank Matthew C (Head Pupil Librarian) and Archie T (Deputy Head Pupil Librarian) for all their hard work and dedication to the LRC, not only this year, but throughout their time at Reading School. We wish you all the best for the next chapter in your lives.

As one chapter ends, another begins and so I am delighted to announce that the next Head Pupil Librarian is Ciaran (12MRC) supported by Deputies Rishabh (12PHO) and Karthik (12FEH).



New Senior Pupil Librarians

In other news, LRC book fines were reintroduced this term and books can now be returned in person to the LRC Loans Desk. The overdue charge is 2p per day, so stay on top of your LRC account by checking Oliver or asking at the Loans Desk. We are not linked to your biometrics account, so you will need to bring cash to pay any overdue charges.

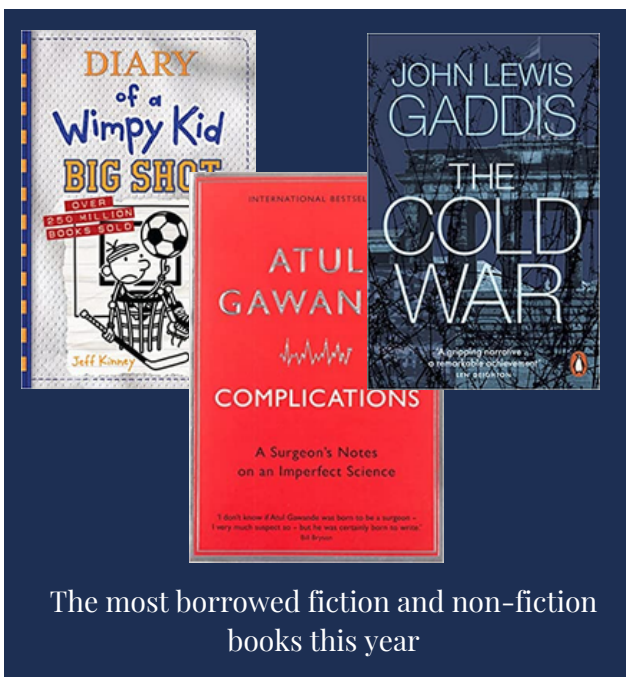
If you need to print you will need to purchase credit for your IT account. We sell credit in units of £1 from the LRC Loans Desk. Please bring cash.

Some Interesting Stats:

This academic year so far, we have loaned 10150 books. That's an increase of 7% on the last comparable year (2018/2019).

The tutor group that has borrowed the most books so far this academic year is 7L with 1373 loans, closely followed by 7W with 1217 loans.

The most borrowed fiction book this year is Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Big Shot by Jeff Kinney and the joint most borrowed non-fiction book is The Cold War by Gaddis and Complications by Gawande



The most borrowed fiction and non-fiction books this year

Mrs Kesteven

School Librarian

LRC Clubs & Activities

Harry Potter Quiz Night

Harry Potter Quiz Night has been a recurring event at our school since its creation by Bloomsbury in 2014. And in this year's 8th annual HP Quiz Night three well deserved Butter Beers were handed out to the three well deserved victors! Out of 68 participants, [68! That's a lot of people we had to fit in the LRC!] three emerged victorious. If you're wondering what happened to the 4th beer, we [Quizmasters] drank it. We can confirm that it tasted really good. So, who won this marvelous prize?

Our glorious trio of victors were from team SSSlytherin (must have a sticky S key!). And who might our most honorable trio be? – well, it's previous victors and past Quizmasters, Sid D (11S), Samuel J (11S) and Sidh G (11S)! Ah, the name makes sense now, very clever guys. They clearly deserved it, winning with a comfortable lead on all the other teams and flexing that past HP knowledge and Quiz planning – great job guys!

With all the honors aside, everyone had a blast and the atmosphere in the LRC was energetic and, above all, mercilessly competitive – in the most Harry Potter nerdy way possible. We [the Quizmasters Extraordinaires, that is] hope you enjoyed it – and the prizes that were handed out. We also hope our questions weren't too hard for you guys [I mean they clearly weren't for some of you, cough, SSSlytherin, cough] and that they didn't bore you to bits either.

Thanks to Paarth G (10W) for setting up and running the show and for the rest of the Quizmaster team for making sure it went smoothly. And finally, thanks everyone for showing up and we hope you'll come back next year for the next one, ready to win and compete just as hard as you did this year. We await you eagerly. I guess you could say we expect-o you soon...

Prabhav B

Pupil Librarian, 10W



Above & Below: Harry Potter Quiz Night



Harry Potter Quiz Night Winners

LRC Clubs & Activities



LRC Book Club Berkshire Book Award Launch



Book Club Meet and Greet with Mark Walden

The LRC Book Club

The LRC Book Club meets every Tuesday during Junior Lunch and is run by Mrs Jackson. This has been a really exciting term with members participating in the Berkshire Book Award and attending an exclusive Meet and Greet with author Mark Walden. There are student-led quizzes most weeks and Mrs Jackson always brings biscuits! Next term, Book Club members will be participating in the Yoto Carnegie Award.

“

The Meet and Greet with Mark Walden was an amazing opportunity

Khanishk (8W)

”

Book Club member Parth M (7S) led a team for the online National Reading Champions Quiz in March. Twenty teams competed against each other, answering questions covering everything from dystopia to horror. Although we did not win, the boys enjoyed the experience and would encourage more people to get involved next year.



LRC Book Club



Reading Champions Quiz team

Year of Reading



Challenges, Family Reading, Recommended Reads

The Year of Reading started with a New Year, New Year Challenge for all KS3. During special library lessons, pupils were invited to explore different authors, genres, new types of texts and classics.

Albert Camus was chosen by Mr Robson as his author of the month and Mrs Ellis chose Refugees and Conflict for our theme of the month. We invited families to Read Together with books from our Family Book Club collection.

Finally we are delighted to announce a re-stock of our Library Reward Cards. Collect stamps when you visit to borrow a book. 10 stamps earns you an Avid Reader DARE point.

Reading School Year of Reading

Albert Camus
The Outsider

Albert Camus
The Plague

Albert Camus
(1913-1960)
Author of the Month

CHOSEN BY MR ROBSON



New Year New Read Library Visit



The Current Library Reward Cards

New Year New Read Challenge

Pupil librarians, Karthik Korlam (11C) and Devansh Asthana (11C) talked to Kaushik Korlam (8C) about his thoughts on the New Year, New Read Challenge...

Q: What do you think of the New Year, New Read Challenge?

I like it because it encourages me to read new genres and opens my eyes to different types of writing that I haven't thought about reading before. It's fun because it gives you goals to accomplish by the end of the year so you have clear targets, and you can even compete against others to see who can finish their challenges first.

Q: How far are you into the challenge?

I'm halfway through - I've read a graphic novel called 'Amulet' by Kazu Kibuishi. I thought the story was a little predictable, but it was an enjoyable read due to the vibrant illustrations. However, I don't think I will read any more of the series!

Q: What are you planning to read for the 'classic' book?

Maybe 'The Great Gatsby' by F. Scott Fitzgerald, because I watched the film and although it had an interesting premise, it was quite dull. Apparently, the book is much better, so I will give it a go. I'm also thinking about reading some stories by Hans Christian Andersen because many of his pieces are quite short so I will be able to read a lot of them in one go.

Q: What book would you recommend to other students participating in the challenge that they most likely would not have heard of before?

'Reckless' by Cornelia Funke is quite good. A lot of people probably know Cornelia Funke from 'Inkheart', but this book is quite interesting too. Summed up, it's a fantasy book about a boy called Jacob who must find a cure for his brother who has been turned to stone in a magical world behind a mirror. In some ways it is a bit like 'The Chronicles of Narnia'.

Q: If you could add an extra challenge, what would it be?

Either swap favourite books with someone or write a piece of writing inspired by your favourite author. Both ideas could be pretty fun activities I could see myself doing.

Q: Would you do this again next year?

Yes, I think I would but maybe there should be a shorter time limit to make it a bit harder e.g. reveal a challenge every month instead of releasing 4 for a whole year.

That was an interesting insight into the New Year, New Reading Challenge from the viewpoint of a Year 8 student. Good luck to all Key Stage 3 as they get on with the New Year, New Read Challenge!

Thank you to Mrs Ellis and Mrs Geraghty-Green for setting the challenge.

Book Festival

The aim of our annual School Book Festival is to inspire an enjoyment of books and reading throughout the whole school. The Festival coincided with World Book Day on Thursday the 3rd of March. This was our 9th Book Festival and was kindly funded by the Old Redingensians Association. Book Festival activities included author talks, workshops, competitions, D.E.A.R. and the Scholastic Book Fair. We would like to thank Ms Bonnaud for supporting all our events this year.

Scholastic Book Fair

Scholastic provides a specially curated collection of books aimed at Secondary Schools. There are over 200 titles for pupils to look through and the school is rewarded for the books that are sold.

All year 7 and 8 pupils were invited to the LRC to visit the Book Fair 9th to 11th of March. While they were waiting for their turn to enter the Fair, they had the opportunity to apply what they had learnt during Book Week to write stories and draw manga which could be entered into the Book Week Competition. Pupils in all other years could visit during break/lunch. The Book Fair was run by Pupil Librarians and Charity Prefects.



Above & Below: The Scholastic Book Fair



We sold books worth **£478.98**

We received a reward of **£191.59** in vouchers for new LRC books.



Book Week Competition Preparation

Drop Everything and Read

To celebrate World Book Day, the whole school participated in a Drop Everything and Read during lesson 6 on Thursday 3rd of March. During this lesson, the whole school stopped what they are doing, and read. At the end of the lesson photos were taken, with prizes for the best ones! We would like to thank Mrs Jackson and Mr Singh for taking photos through Book Week. Here are the D.E.A.R. winners:



Author Events

Sonia Leong

Sonia Leong visited the school and hosted a number of manga workshops, as well as a talk for the A-Level Art students, as part of the wider Book Festival on the 1st of March. The workshops in particular were well received by those who participated, and involved Sonia running a crash course in drawing manga characters, effortlessly demonstrating the steps and techniques to go through when undergoing such an endeavour. Not only did she stun with her speed drawing (on A2 paper with a whiteboard pen, might I add) but she also enlightened and inspired some of the participants:

“

I really enjoyed the talk and workshop because in both I learnt something. I do not read manga regularly so I did not know much about this topic but after Sonia Leong's talk, it has made me want to start drawing some manga figures in my free time for practice and to also read.

Sai (7S)

I thought it was so cool to see a manga artist in person and how she does her artwork! I really found her and her lifestyle/ work very inspiring as well as encouraging me to try manga books and drawings!

Rushil (8C)

It was very interesting, I learnt a lot of new things about the manga genre as I read it but didn't actually know anything about the development process.

Reuben (9S)

”

Along with demonstrating her artistic skill, she also gave an insight into her daily routine as a full-time illustrator/manga artist to the sixth formers as well as general art advice regarding burnout management, doing commissions and going to conventions among other things.



Above & Below: Sonia Leong
Author Event





Taran Matharu Author Workshop

All in all, Sonia Leong's workshop was an astounding success, our students got to witness first-hand the artistic process behind designing manga characters and we look forward to having her back again next year!

Jim Li

Pupil Librarian

Taran Matharu

Taran Matharu is the author of the Summoner series and the Contender trilogy. The Novice, book one of the Summoner series is the third most borrowed LRC book this year. Year 7 were really excited to meet him during workshops in the LRC on day one of the Book Festival. Did you know, this was Taran's fourth visit to Reading School!

During the workshops, Taran revealed the simple technique he uses to come up with story ideas and explained how this technique was used to create the Summoner Series. By thinking about what he enjoyed or interested him from books, films and computer games he identified the elements he wanted to use in the Summoner books. This was combined with personal experiences and other interests.



Taran Matharu Group Photos with 7C (Above) and 7E (Below)

What did Year 7s think of the workshops?

“

Taran was amazing! He introduced us to a new style of planning a book which was amazing. He was very encouraging and fun. He even gave me some advice on how to be motivated. Overall, he was amazing and very enthusiastic! He even signed our books!

Nathaniel (7L)

What I liked about the workshop is the method Taran showed us about making an idea to a book, as it allows us to make a fun story based on our own interests. It can easily get the struggle of making a plot out of the way, and it can easily become the foundation of the story.

Adedayo (7C)

His method to come up with books is really good and fun to do. His method helped me come up with a story of my own!

Benjamin (7L)



Taran Matharu sharing his story writing techniques and ideas

”

Mark Walden

Mark Walden is one of our most loved authors at Reading School. Infact, H.I.V.E. is the 2nd most borrowed LRC book this year. All year 7 and 8 were really excited to meet him on the third day for our Book Festival.

Mark focussed on his H.I.V.E. series, and gave a very interactive talk exploring why it is more exciting to write about villains than good guys. The talks were followed by an informal meet and greet session with our Book Club, who each received a free book.

What did the students think of the workshops?

“

I really enjoyed Mark Walden's talk because he is very funny and he gave us an insight into the genres of his books. His talk was quite interactive which I liked and, so far, I am really enjoying his 'HIVE' series.

Henry (7L)

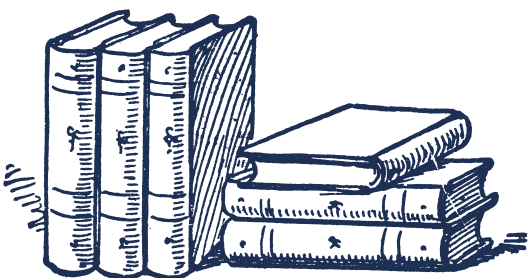
I liked this talk because I learnt about where Mark Walden got all his ideas from. It was also very entertaining as Mark also told us about his favourite villains and why he wanted to write about what he writes about.

Lawrence (8E)

”

Alex Baker

Alex Baker, leader of the Igniting Writing Group at Wokingham Library, ran a 60 minute work shop for pupils from all years after-school on day four of the Book Festival. The theme was “Choose your own adventure”.



Above & Below: Mark Walden Author Talk



Above & Below: Alex Baker Author Workshop

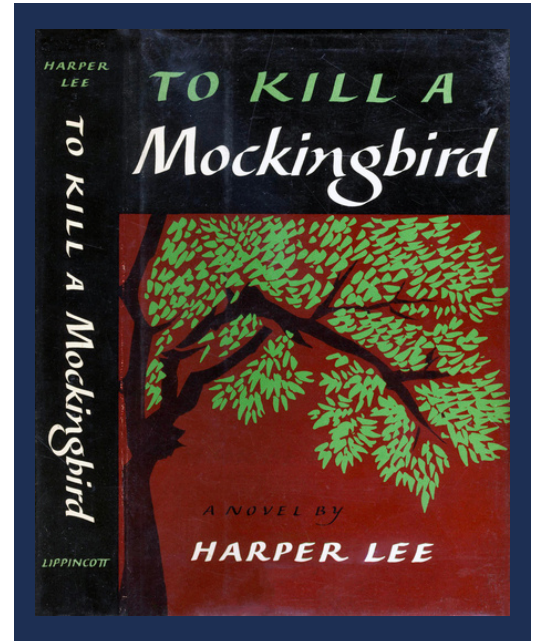


To Kill a Mockingbird Book Review

San C (10S)

To Kill a Mockingbird is the kind of book that almost everybody should read at some point in their lives. Some are told to read it in school, some are just curious because of the legend surrounding the book. This book has been adapted into a motion picture, and it is a household name. As one of the all-time literature classics, Mockingbird is a must read for everybody.

The book is narrated by Scout Finch, and follows the lives of her, her older brother Jem and her father Atticus, a lawyer. Atticus is a heroic character because he is a non-racist, non-sexist white man in a supremely racist pre-WW2 southern American town. Atticus acts as a role model and somebody to look up to in the book, seeing people as not black or white, but just as people. A very prevalent theme in Mockingbird is the theme of morals, especially concerning sin. This is because Atticus, the hero, defends an innocent black man accused of



rape. At the time when Mockingbird was set, this would be considered a sin, but Atticus decides to do it anyway, as he follows his morals. In my opinion, another theme is discrimination, and not just the racism outlined in the plot. Take, for example, Boo Radley. Boo Radley is, throughout the entire novel, regarded as a deranged man by the kids and should be avoided at all costs. When Dill comes every summer, him, Jem, and Scout try to get into the Radley household and pass a message to Boo. They get chased away by Nathan Radley and then are shouted at by Atticus, being told to never go to Boo's house again. There are also rumours that if you step on to the Radley property, Nathan Radley will shoot you. All this, and the mystery Harper Lee present about the Radley household, makes it seem like Boo is a dangerous psychopath who will kill anybody that comes near him. However, we later see that Boo is not like this because he is the one who saves Jem and Scout's life. They discriminate him based on a series of rumours, and, because of the intricate language and techniques used by Lee when writing the book, the reader does as well. This idea of discrimination is obviously echoed by the severe racism shown towards Tom Robinson, but also by the famous quote, "Kill all the blue jays you want, if you can hit 'em, but remember it is a sin to kill a mockingbird." This quote emphasises the theme of morality concerning sins, but also about the idea of double standards. This allegory quote is essentially saying, kill all the black people you want, but remember, you must never kill a white person. It is saying that one type of the person is worth more than another.

I really love this book because it starts off fast paced and keeps the reader on their toes. When one hears about a classic such as Mockingbird, a boring, slow paced, and dull book is anticipated; that is what I certainly thought. However, this is a huge misconception. Mockingbird is fast paced right from the beginning, with unexpected twists and mysteries that keep the reader on edge. It can be challenging to follow the old language, but if care and attention is given while reading, the book is a rollercoaster of emotions.

When Atticus' court case begins, the plot becomes really intriguing. Filled with suspense and tension, the reader simply cannot put the book down. In this section, the book is still narrated by Scout, but she doesn't quite understand the importance of the case.

In this time period, taking a case like this could end up with a target on your back, and only Jem and Atticus understand that. This section is very hard hitting to read, as the argument made by Atticus would make anybody find Tom Robinson innocent and the victim's father guilty. For some time, Lee gives the false hope that Tom Robinson will be found innocent and, when reality sets in, it really depresses the mood. After the court case, the book is assumed to be over, but the plot still contains one final twist. With the attempted murder of Jem and Scout by Bob Ewell (the victim's father/the real abuser) for some time it is unclear if Jem will survive. The doctors say that Jem would have died if it wasn't for a mystery saviour, only announced at the end of the book as the final twist in the story; the saviour is Boo Radley.

In conclusion, I would give To Kill a Mockingbird 4.5 out of 5. It is a brilliant novel about the harsh racism in 1930s America, with a surprise waiting around every corner. It is an absolute must read for literature fanatics, aspiring novel writers, and really anybody who loves to read. Mockingbird won many awards and is still collecting them today. The book was turned into a motion picture, which collected three Academy Awards, and was nominated for eight. I would absolutely recommend the book, but it is important to note that some of the severe racism might be a bit too hard hitting for younger audiences

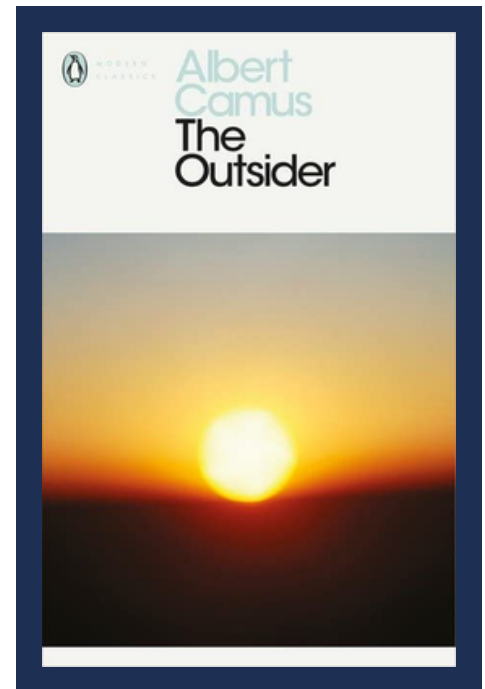
The Outsider Book Review

Imagine a life without meaning. Imagine a life where all the values that you were taught in your youth was nothing but a façade. How would you live your life? Since nothing mattered, would you live your life not caring about anything? Such is the dilemma and lifestyle of Meursault, the protagonist of "The Outsider," by Albert Camus.

Imagine a life of perpetual indifference. A world in which you live life as a passive bystander; watching the comings and goings of "normal people." If a murderer were to ask you to hide a body, you would not mind much. If you won millions of pounds in the jackpot, you would not mind much. If you were being taken out for dinner with a lover (or so you thought) you would not mind much.

We follow Meursault - the Outsider. We follow this man live his life separate from the comings and goings of the world. This culminates in killing on the sands of the coast of Algeria. Yet, he does not care if he lives

or dies for, he is completely disillusioned by the fact that nothing matters in the world. Even the harrowing repercussions of his actions he greets as an old friend. Albert Camus authors a story with gripping depth into the psychology and inner workings of a man, separate from the world and its urgency to find meaning. This piece promises to be like something you have never read before and really make you question the nature of life's meaning and whether it should matter in the grand scheme of things. It is a brilliant read that students interested in Psychology, Philosophy or the inner workings of individuals should absolutely read.



Siddhant M

Pupil Librarian, 10L

HPQ Top Tips

Having started the HPQ process last year, I can clearly remember everyone's opinion on the whole concept: what a drag, what a waste of time. But the truth is, it really does not have to be – and there's one simple, crucial thing you can do to fix that.

Pick a topic you actually enjoy talking about! It seems obvious but it is the single best and more helpful piece of advice I could imagine giving to someone who told me they were starting their HPQ this year. And the reason this is the one hint I would give is simple; your entire HPQ revolves around your topic! If you decide, at a whim during one your HPQ sessions, to do a topic you really don't care about, the whole process will just frustrate you further. So seriously – take some time to think about a topic you think you can actually stick with for a year, pick a topic that you think you can write a 2000 word essay about without boring yourself. Because, in the end, if you don't care about your essay, no one else will.

Secondly, and lastly, communicate with your supervisor, and get them to communicate with you. They are, in theory, your only help for this whole project. Staying in the loop with them and working hand in hand with them will be key to delivering a final project. Meet with them to discuss progress, ask questions relating to your topic, or ask for advice on what you plan to do in due course. Make sure that you communicate clearly when you do sections of your ProjectQ so they can sign it off or give you advice. Don't waste weeks waiting for a sign off – get it done quickly, so you can keep working on the next steps.

And finally, don't let it drag out. It is entirely in your control how quickly you get this done – in fact, that's the point of the project! To learn how to manage yourself, your time and your workflow to get a job done. 2000 words is not a lot, believe me. This article is 386 long! It's a lot of work, but it's up to you to get it done – so do it.

Prabhav B

Pupil Librarian, 10W

The LRC is subscribed to a range of online resources to support student independent learning. To access these online resources, you need to:

- Go to the Reading School SharePoint page
- Click on the Students section
- Click on LRC E-Resources
- Scroll through the page to find the resource you need and the usernames and passwords required to login

You can directly access these online resources by clicking on the link below:

[Learning Resources Centre E-Resources](#)



Pseudo-Physics Reading List

Many of you may already know of Andy Weir through his dramatic and globally popular work 'the Martian', which has since been turned into a blockbuster motion picture featuring Matt Damon. The world has, of course, loved this movie – but have you ever actually read the book? Not only is it longer than the movie, which naturally cuts some parts, but also more in depth and scientifically accurate than a two and a bit hour movie could ever hope to be.

And that's why this is the 'Pseudo Physics' list. Weir's books are gorgeous in every traditional sense; incredible pacing and narrative in combination with incredible worlds and characters who bring the books alive in unimaginable ways. In addition to the near endless stream of wit and comedy in every one of his books, they are also gloriously scientifically accurate. Theories and formulas, maths and science blended into the story so seamlessly it adds ten times the realism for no loss in entertainment – thus letting me call this a Pseudo-Physics reading list. Here's a brief overview of some of Weir's books:

The Martian

You've all heard of this one. Mark Watney is screwed – stranded alone on Mars he must try to fight and hope to survive on an inhospitable red desert until help from Earth arrives. Can his engineering and Botany [I mean, he is the best botanist on the planet] keep him alive long enough till someone saves him, or will Mars and non-stop disco music be the end of him?

Artemis

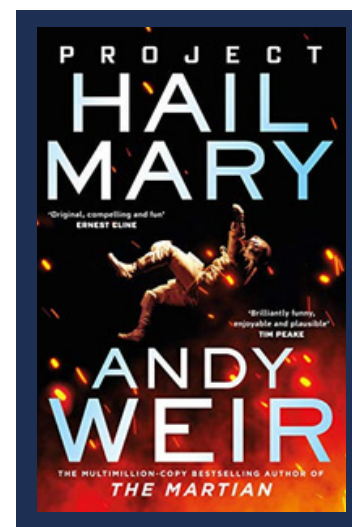
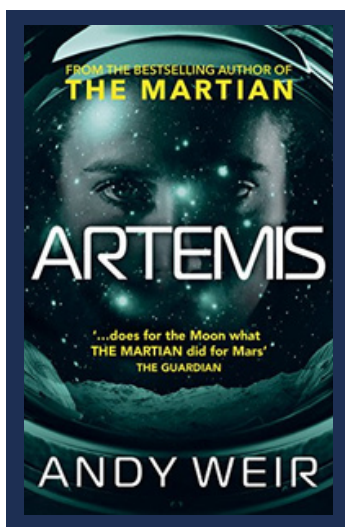
So, humanity has colonized the moon, but it turns out there's a lot more than research and tourism taking place up there. It seems that humanity simply can't escape it no matter where it is, even 300,000 kilometres out in space, away from Earth, it still exists. Crime. So will the city of Artemis crumble into the lunar soil by the weight of crime, or will someone step in to put a stop to it...

Project Hail Mary

Having come out this year, it's Weir's latest book – and rights have already been bought for a major motion picture [along with being my favourite Weir book]. Turns out that the sun getting less bright, warm, and fuzzy isn't that great for humanity. But it turns out it's not just the sun. Other stars are failing too, and only one American astronaut with no memory or idea of what he's doing has any chance of saving humanity – stuck alone on an interstellar road trip. He's got no chance. Unless he meets someone on the way...

Prabhav B

Pupil Librarian, 10W





Edited by
Rishabh L (12PHO) and Seth B (8W)