

The Heston Voice

STUDENT NEWSLETTER | HESTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL



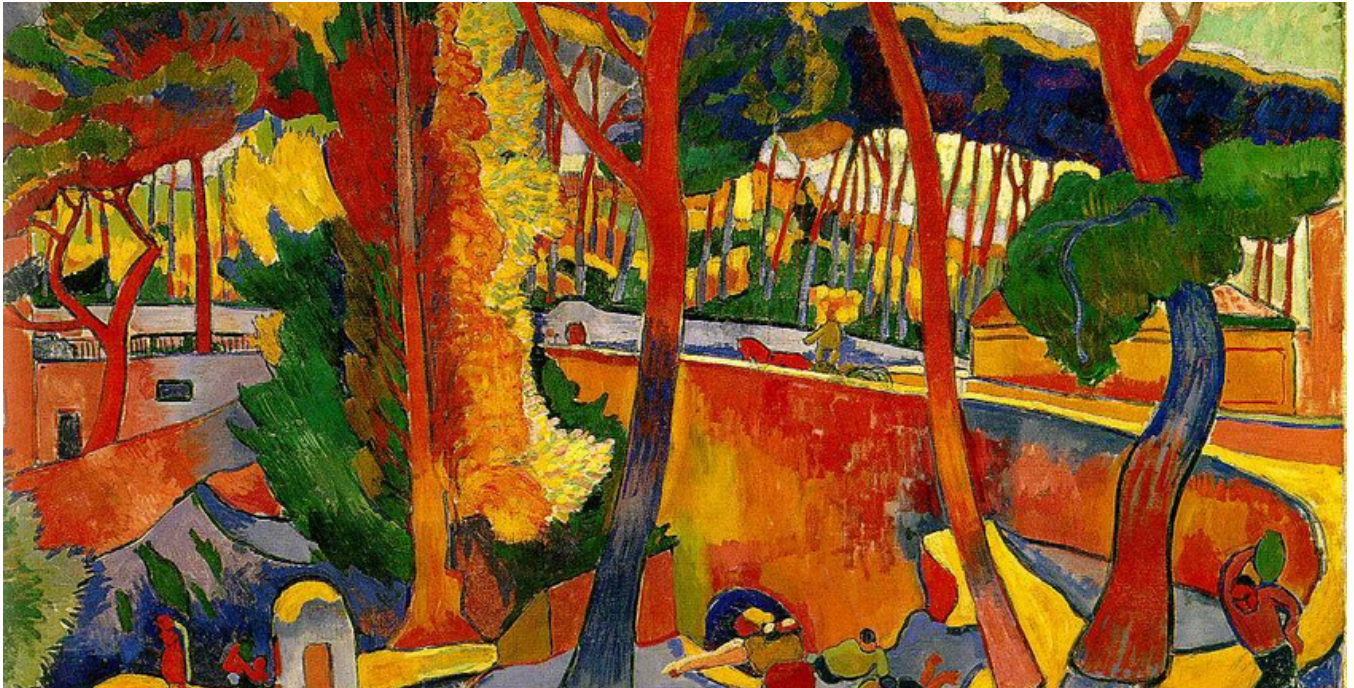
Cover art by illustrator Lara Paulussen

OCTOBER 2021 | ISSUE NO. 1

*FUN FACT: UNTIL 1500, AUTUMN WAS CALLED
"HARVEST" IN BRITAIN.*

HAPPY AUTUMN

Do you know Andre Derain's 'The Turning Road'? (L'Estaque, ca. 1906, Oil on Canvas, Art Movement: Fauvism)



AUTUMN BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

KS3:

1. The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman
2. The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas

KS4:

1. 13 Minutes by Sarah Pinborough
2. Wuthering Heights by Emily Brontë
3. Click the button for more



KS5:

1. Beloved by Toni Morrison
2. The Bloody Chamber by Angela Carter
3. Norwegian Wood by Haruki Murakami

See page 10 and 11 for more.

Interesting fact: The severed head of a sea slug can grow a whole new body.

Happy News Highlights



- A new blood test can detect 50 types of cancer, including its type and source.
- Mosquito microbe stops malaria spread: scientists have discovered a single-cell microbe that has been proven to stop mosquitoes from carrying and transmitting the disease.
- Remarkable blue whale numbers reported: Scientists reported seeing 55 different whales in coastal waters around the sub-Antarctic island of South Georgia - a huge increase on the two that were spotted in 2018.

Autumn Poem



Fall, Leaves, Fall by Emily Brontë

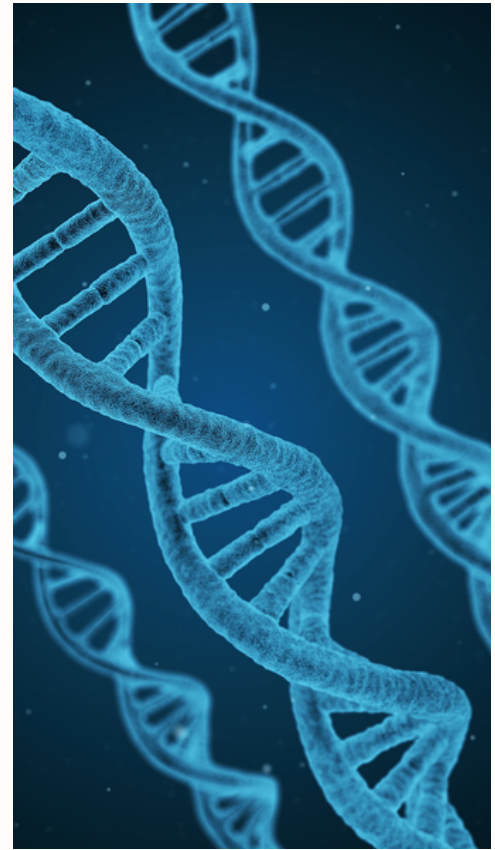
Fall, leaves, fall; die, flowers, away;
Lengthen night and shorten day;
Every leaf speaks bliss to me
Fluttering from the autumn tree.
I shall smile when wreaths of snow
Blossom where the rose should grow;
I shall sing when night's decay
Ushers in a drearier day.

*Did you know that
Emily Brontë didn't
learn to spell until
she was 16?*

The Number One Thing People Get Wrong About Genetic Engineering

By Ali Ali, 12F

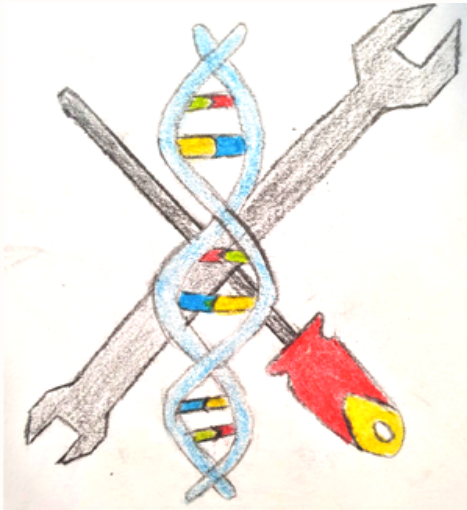
Most individuals regard genetic manipulation as something accomplished by a group of shady, lab-coated scientists in some undisclosed laboratory. Well, that really doesn't encapsulate the full picture; humans have been experimenting with genetic modification for decades, producing desirable crops via selective breeding. The implications of genetic engineering falling into the grasps of perverted scientists who would create chaos seems to dominate the general social view of this branch of science, yet many fail to realise the genuine and incredible benefits it can bring.



Agriculture consumes a huge amount of energy (55% coming from unsustainable, greenhouse sources like petroleum), yet this can easily be solvable by engineering the crops in a way so that it requires less fuel and land while producing a high yield. Furthermore, since we can increase the yield of crops being produced, we can help feed an ever-growing population, projected to grow at least another 2 billion by 2050 according to UN findings. This is vital, especially for countries where its climate may cause difficulty in growing certain climate-specific crops or where it may not be readily available for the surplus population. A great example of a GM crop is golden rice; a variety of rice that produces beta-carotene and was created to combat a widespread vitamin A deficiency, a startling issue rampant in third-world countries. Ultimately, we can produce foods that isolate its desirable traits so that its nutritional data, as well as its resistance to droughts and other negative weather conditions, allow more of it to be produced rapidly and efficiently.

“However, there are undeniable risks associated with manipulating genes – the ethical horrors of designer babies. We may begin to witness the employment of gene editing for enhancement: blond hair and blue eyes, improved athletic performance and so on”: this is what an average rebuttal from a genetic engineering sceptic would look like. Here's a question I would like to present to you: if you had the ability to correct a soon-to-be-born child with downs syndrome so that they could be born healthy and free of defects, would you do so? If the answer is yes, genetic engineering will give you that promise in the near future. The burden of raising a child with physical disabilities can be damaging both to parents and affected





children, especially if the child was wholly dependent on their carers; such possibilities can be eliminated via genetic engineering. Indeed, there are possibilities of gene editing being abused although this would be contained immediately, as scientific testing is built around guidelines that cannot be violated, thus rendering such worries null and void.

Genetic engineering is on the precipice of a major breakthrough, one that can push the development of the human species to new levels. With the promises of battling world hunger, climate change, and genetic diseases, why would you ever be against such a blessing?

HISTORY

Black History Month

By Sachi Khanna, 10 Orange



This essential month gives people the opportunity to learn and recognise the achievements and key roles played by those with African and West Indian (from regions such as the Caribbean) heritage, both globally and in the UK. The amount of inspiring black figures that inspire us today are multitudinous, from icons such as racing driver Lewis Hamilton (one of the most renowned competitors in formula one and the only mixed-race driver to have raced in F1) to Malorie Blackman: the first black Children's Laureate.

Black history month was founded by Carter Woodson who was famously known as the 'father of black history'. Born in 1875, Woodson was the son of former slaves. Remarkably, he gained a PhD from Harvard University and went on to mark the first-ever black history week in the US in 1926. This meagre week was transformed into black history month in 1976 and is now recognised and commemorated in the UK.



CARTER WOODSON

A Key Moment British History: Do you know about Windrush Migration?

This was when people came to the UK on the ship MV Empire Windrush between 1948 and 1971 from the Caribbean. After WWII, Britain encouraged migration from Commonwealth countries to help rebuild the country due to the shortage of labour at the time. There are said to be more than 500,000 UK residents who were born in a Commonwealth country that migrated here before 1971. Eventually, this ended with the 1971 Immigration Act, where Commonwealth citizens who were already here were given permanent residency to stay.



Scandal

In 2018 Britain faced the Windrush scandal concerning Commonwealth citizens' children who were outrageously threatened with deportation because of a lack of paperwork; the government ultimately had apologised and since then, they have held events such as church services, exhibitions, and cultural events on Windrush Day which is commemorated on 22 June.

Black history month is a terrific way to honour those black figures who have fought for the basic human rights of black people, however, it should not be overlooked and ignored the rest of the year and should be commemorated every day, through daily conversation, the school curriculum, the media, and beyond.

ADVICE

The Sky's the Limit

By Jeevan Chohan, 12B



60% of adults are not satisfied with their job.

Don't be that person who has to drag themselves out of bed every morning for work – many people fall into careers and stay there, losing any hope of the dreams they once harboured in school, reflecting on what could have been, but have neither the time nor will to change it.

Don't be that person. Find something that you enjoy and put your heart and soul into it. Ask yourself, what you are good at? What do you enjoy? What are you curious about? It would be terribly laborious to work in an industry or field that you are not curious and enthusiastic about. The career that you choose is going to stick with you for a long time, so make sure it's a good one!

My passion is flying. The thrill and sensation I get out of being in control of such a complex piece of machinery are astonishing. Flying may not be for everyone, but it certainly is for me. Not only is flying a hobby but it is also a job: imagine being able to travel across the entire world; being paid is just a bonus. People may say that I have put all my eggs in one basket, but it is the basket I want and have wanted for as long as I can remember. This is the career that I want to head into. I know it is going to be demanding, challenging, and thrilling; it requires tenacity, courage, and determination to fly past any storms that may stand in my way, to transport people from one end of the world to another, yet this is my goal, my dream, and I will do my best to reach it.

Find your dream job, set a goal, and go for it. There is nothing stopping you from becoming whatever you desire to become, no matter what people say, it is possible. Don't be stuck in that job that you will dread to get up for every morning and simply don't want to do. Always remember, the sky's the limit, and I will be soaring through that sky one day.

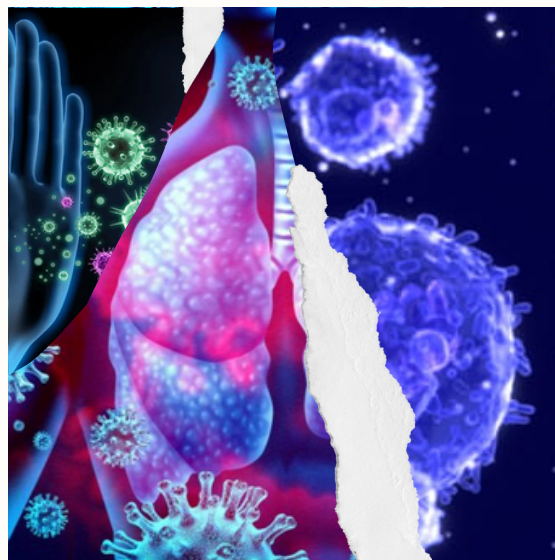
BIOLOGY

Body at War: The Miraculous Soldiers of the Immune System

By Hardeep Singh, 12F

Your body is constantly at war. You may not realise it, but thousands of frontline troops are ready for a fierce bloodbath that decides your odds of survival.

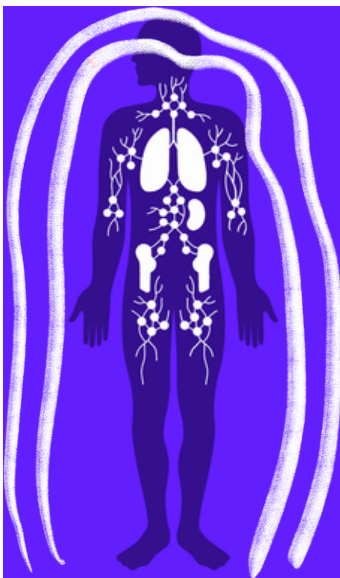
Now you may be thinking: how have I got an army of specialised fighters that would expunge unwanted visitors at the very minute they break in? Where are they kept?



Say you prick your finger on a pin or needle. You probably wouldn't give it a second thought other than the initial proclamation of 'ouch!'. You would never realise the catastrophe you had unleashed upon your body.

Thousands of bacteria would begin to migrate from the outside world into your body. Your first line of defence? Your guards - formally known as your white blood cells. Macrophages (a type of white blood cell) must rush to the frontline, grappling the enemy (bacteria) with their long squid-like arms and begin to break them down into various proteins - think of them as grinders that rip things they don't like apart.

But there's a problem: the macrophages begin to fill up on the bacteria they've ingested and reach their capacity of around 10 pathogens. The solution? They signal other cells through chemical messages sent through your body. Here come the neutrophils! These small but aggressive creatures specialise in using chemical weapons known as toxins to extirpate everything they see; they are so fanatical about killing, they even kill your own body cells, a very unfortunate but necessary measure to quickly destroy bacteria before they themselves do the damage. Neutrophils have so much pleasure killing that they are willing to self-destruct, secreting a huge 'web' trapping and killing intruders.



Now there's another problem: your first line of defence is not always enough to stop more tenacious and cleverer bacteria that can secrete their own toxins in battle. They may be more specialised to deal with your own soldiers and may be resistant to the chemicals that they are dissolved in.

Nevertheless, your body won't give up so easily: while the battle would rage, behind the scenes there are field agents called dendritic cells - these cells float throughout the battlefield and have the dead bacteria attached to them. These cells then float into the weapon arsenal of your body where there are many helper T-cells, all specialised to kill that one stubborn bacterium that is resistant to your front-line workers.

How do these cells have the ability to kill that one stubborn cell?



Well, your body remembers the exact method to tackle a specific bacterium for every disease you have ever come across with T-cells. These T-cells take this knowledge and then attach to one of the dead carcasses of the bacterium and activates, allowing them to clone and multiply until there are thousands of copies of themselves.

Finally, these T-cells float back to the warzone. Remember the macrophage? Macrophages are all worn out from battle as anything working that hard would be, but your second line of defence

(your helper T- cells) have now arrived in full force secreting chemicals that awaken these tired macrophages. They begin to charge forward, slaughtering all hostile microorganisms in a massacre of cells that fought selflessly; saving your body from imminent death.

The human body has many fascinating evolutionary traits that we could never have imagined in our wildest dreams. Maybe you'll think about all those brave soldiers the next time you accidentally cut yourself!

ECONOMICS

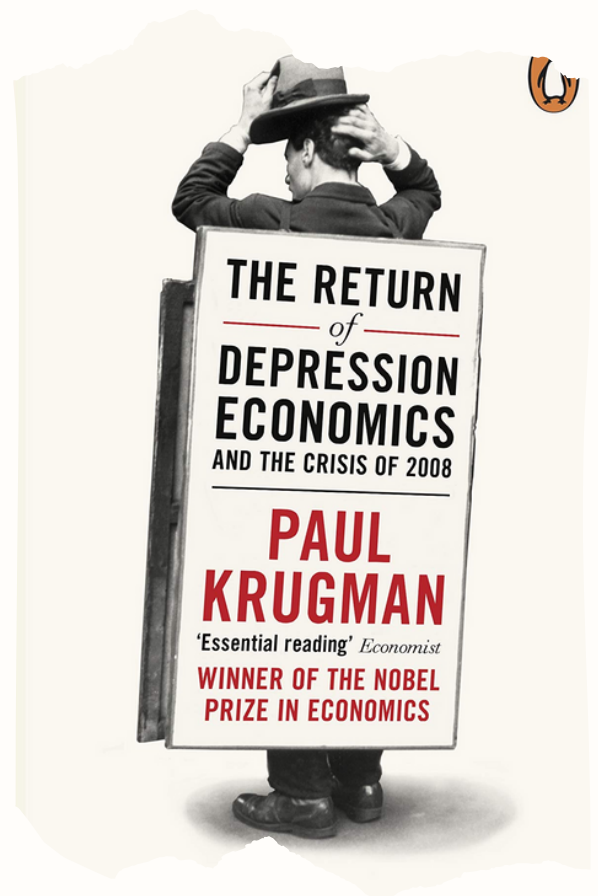
The Return Of Depression Economics

By Puneet Bansal, 13C

Paul Krugman, the winner of the 2008 Nobel Prize in Economics, shows how today's crisis mirrors the occurrence of the Great Depression and delves into what countries should do to avoid catastrophes.

The first chapter entitled 'The Central Problem Has Been Solved' starts off with discussing other economists and their perspectives – in particular, Robert Lucas and Ben Bernanke. Robert Lucas gave the presidential address at the annual meetings of the American Economic Association, expressing his opinions and thoughts that macroeconomics began as a response to the Great Depression, where he felt that the central problem of depression prevention had been solved, for all practical purposes. He believed that the business cycle had been tamed and was supported by Bernanke in arguing that modern macroeconomic policies had solved the problem of the business cycle. These optimistic pronouncements sounded almost egotistical given the 1930s financial crisis.

The second chapter entitled 'Warning Ignored: Latin America's Crises' delves into playing word association, using this as an analogy to show how the word financial crisis tends to be associated with Latin America. Latin America had been subject to hyperinflation (a situation in which prices are rising extremely fast) and banking failures as a result of weakly elected governments. They had military strongmen where they wanted to buy popular support with populist programmes that they were unable to afford – they were in a dilemma. However, the government wanted to finance this: they resorted to borrowing from careless foreign bankers, resulting in being in a balance of payments (a record of all economic transactions over a period of time between economic agents of one country and the rest of the world) crisis and to the printing press, leading to further hyperinflation.



By the late 1880s, Latin America learnt their lesson and Chile returned to democracy in 1989, where having sound money and free markets looked increasingly attractive as their growth rate accelerated. The Latin American debt crisis, which started in 1982, continued for the rest of the decade and it was clear that a radical change in policy would get the region moving. Latin America reformed: state-owned companies became private, restrictions on imports (when goods/services come into the country) were lifted and controlling inflation became a priority. The international media spoke about the 'new' Latin America and in particular, the 'Mexican miracle.' However, three months later, Mexico went into its worst recession yet (a period of low economic activity, when investments lose value, businesses fail, and unemployment rises). Known as the tequila crisis, this was known as one of the worst recessions to hit an individual country yet.



Paul Krugman does an incredible job discussing the Great Depression and the impact it has had on individual countries, having a cross-curricular links with politics, history, sociology, business, maths, and geography alongside economics, exploring the fascinating aspects of these subjects and how these are related with recessions in various countries and the Great Depression. Ultimately, it is a fantastic and fascinating way to learn about the economic history of a plethora of countries.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

AFGHANISTAN

By Aila Malik, 9 Purple

WARNING: THIS MAY BE A SENSITIVE TOPIC TO SOME.

As we all know, Afghanistan has been targeted for months now.

On Friday 8th October 2021, the Said Abaz (Kunduz) Mosque was attacked during Friday prayers. The mosque was bombed severely and 47 people were killed, and over 140 injured. From the information that has been collected, it is believed that 300 people were attending Friday prayers when the attack occurred. This is the third attack on a religious institution this week. It is feared that the death toll

may rise over the next few weeks.

Please continue to be aware and have a look at the link for more information.





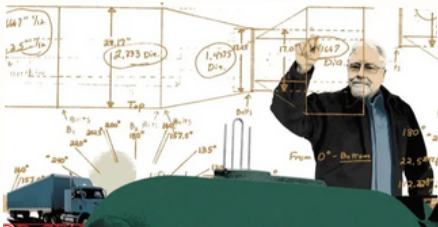
Making of the Atomic Bomb

By Zunaria Samadi, 11 Red

I cannot speak for everyone (of course) but this book called out to me. It is a contemporary history book about the Manhattan project. This is an informative book of the greatest minds in science and how they were brought together to build a bomb.



This book explains how scientists developed the atomic bomb in the 1930s and 1940s. These scientists worked on this project from its initial proposal to its deployment as a weapon against Japan in 1945. It describes how the USA provided funding for nuclear weapons research in 1941 after an initial theoretical proposal was made in 1939. This led to successful tests and the deployment of these weapons against Hiroshima in 1945.



The book begins with Rhodes' assertion that the invention of the atomic bomb was a critical evolutionary moment in world history and international relations. He then traces the concept of 'atom' from ancient Greece to its linguistic origin and discusses how nuclear fission was discovered by scientists like Leo Szilard.

The next critical event in the timeline of the atomic bomb was when scientists proved that it could be harnessed for great power. Many scientists were frightened by this technology, so they fled central Europe to avoid aiding Hitler. Meanwhile, the Germans were making progress on a bomb. Finally, in 1941, the USA began to take the creation of an atomic bomb seriously.

An incredible amount of money and destruction went into achieving that. There is a lengthy chapter that moved me to tears quite a bit about the impacts of the bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It was a mammoth enterprise, the greatest example of human cooperation in the face of such evil. Rhodes argues strongly that scientists were ultimately responsible for stopping the atomic bomb. In fact, he credits them with inventing it in the first place.

This book enlightened me – I was able to embark on a journey through the minds of these impressive scientists and it has made me feel more passionate about science and its complexity. What I enjoyed most about this book was that it is both a historical study and an argument about how science has shaped national policy.

Sexual Assault Awareness

On Monday, Year 12 girls had an assembly on peer on peer abuse in schools, including sexual harassment, led by Year 13 girls to open up the important conversation surrounding the stigmatised topic and help create a safer school environment - only the beginning of many conversations. Click on the button to access a student resource pack made by Atiyaah Ali and Puneet Bansal. The assembly was led by: Roshni, Aya, Atiyaah, Puneet N, Puneet B, Lovell, Simarpreet, Keishe, and Lidia.



BOOKS

Book Recommendations

Still searching for that perfect book to cosy up to? The Bulletin's editor, Roshni, has some great recommendations to accompany you this autumn.

1 Animal Farm

Summed up in a few words: short read, good metaphors, and easy allegory, revolution.



2 A Good Girl's Guide to Murder

Summed up in a few words: an enjoyable read about a teenage girl who tries to solve a crime that has plagued her hometown. Thrilling!



3 The Harlan Coben Shelter Series



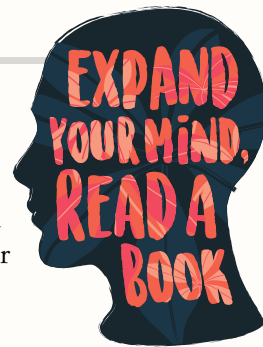
Summed up in a few words: a thriller with a lot of mystery and deduction. Slightly heavy themes but a very good series aimed at teens written by a very popular thriller writer.

4 The Hunger Games Series

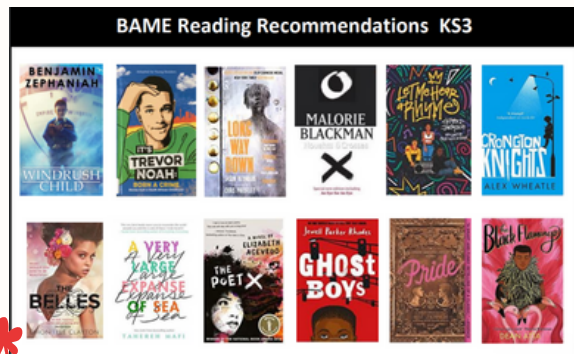
Summed up in a few words: dystopian/YA, characters are not stock types, complex relationships, very political and very enjoyable. You could also watch the movies after!



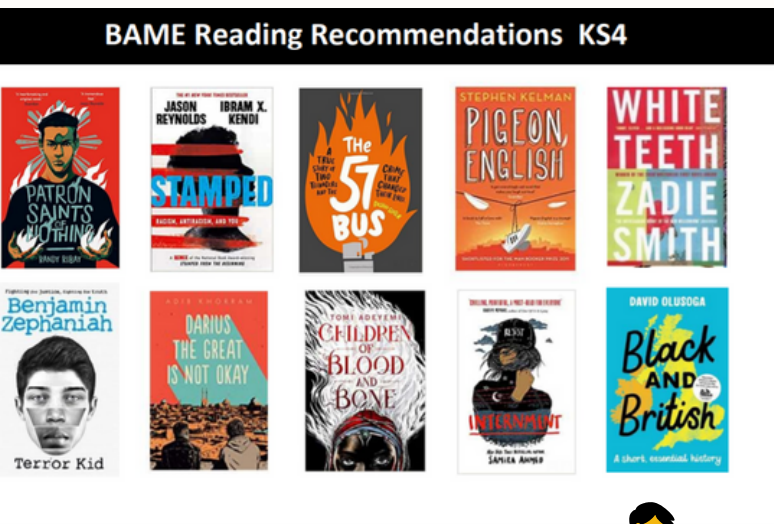
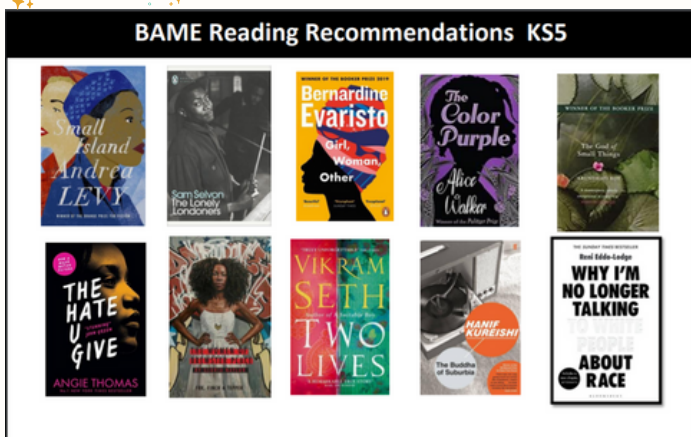
Miss Dinkha's Brilliant BAME Book Recommendations



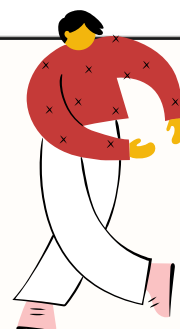
1. Windrush Child by Benjamin Zephaniah
2. It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime by Trevor Noah
3. Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds
4. Noughts and Crosses by Malorie Blackman
5. Let Me Hear a Rhyme by Tiffany D. Jackson
6. Crongton Knights by Alex Wheatle
7. The Belles by Dhonielle Clayton
8. A Very Large Expanse of Sea by Tahereh Mafi
9. The Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo
10. Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes
11. Pride by Ibi Zoboi
12. The Black Flamingo by Dean Atta



1. Patron Saints of Nothing by Randy Ribay
2. Stamped by Ibram X. Kendi and Jason Reynolds
3. The 57 Bus by Dashka Slater
4. Pigeon English by Stephen Kelman
5. White Teeth by Zadie Smith
6. Terror Kid by Benjamin Zephaniah
7. Darius The Great Is Not Okay by Adib Khorram
8. Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi
9. Internment by Samira Ahmed
10. Black and British by David Olusoga



1. Small Island by Andrea Levy
2. The Lonely Londoners by Sam Selvon
3. Girl, Woman, Other by Bernadine Evaristo
4. The Colour Purple by Alice Walker
5. The God of Small Things by Arundhati Roy
6. The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas
7. The Women of Brewster Place by Gloria Naylor
8. Two Lives by Vikram Seth
9. The Buddha of Suburbia by Hanif Kureishi
10. Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race by Reni Eddo-Lodge





Monday 18th October

By Samira Hersi, 7 Green

Monday 18th October

I hate her so much. Everywhere I go, I see her beady blue eyes staring into my soul. Just thinking about it makes me shiver.

She's always on my back, spreading gossip to her so-called 'popular friends'. If you're wondering about whom I'm talking about, her name is Olivia McCallister. Olivia is the

most popular girl at school. The people there practically worship her. People are always complimenting her just because of her looks and money. I'm not jealous of her or anything - I mean I'm not that sad. Imagine having to put up with that girl.

Welcome to my world.

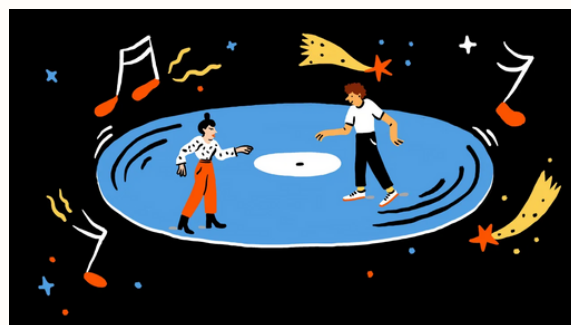
(Based on the book series 'Dork Diaries')

MUSIC

How Playing Music Affects a Person's Life

By Rhys Fernandes, 12E

A great majority of people listen to music; it is something that has become a part of us through which we can express our emotions. Its transformative and restorative power is similar to religion in the sense that it helps to console us.



According to research, those who listen to music have higher levels of brain activity than those who do not, suggesting that they are more motivated individuals. Another study discovered that if you play an instrument, your brain activity increases, consequently generating heightened feelings of happiness than you have ever felt before. When musicians play an instrument, they are able to enter a realm of transportation, a place where they can express their sentiments and emotions.

As humans, we often lack the confidence to express our feelings: we hide them instead, but music is there to support us, convey our feelings, and show who we really are - it is like a new pathway and place of being. Expressing these feelings often leads to making life easier and lends hope to a better future.



Liked this article? Check out
'Soul' by Disney and Pixar



Secret Shakespeare and His Mysterious Identity

By Amrita Uppal, 11 Yellow and Dilpreet Sidana, 11 Red

We all know about Shakespeare: I mean, how couldn't you with the numerous pop culture references to phrases from his plays and scripts from the very words he crafted? Yes, Shakespeare invented some phrases that you use to this very day (such as 'vanish into thin air,' 'wild-goose chase,' 'wear my heart upon my sleeve', and the classic 'swagger'.) What I mean to say is that literature itself has broadened so widely just with the writing of one man. But what if I had told you that it wasn't just one man. Or that this singular icon wasn't even a real person...



William Shakespeare was born in the Warwickshire town of Stratford-upon-Avon in 1564. At the age of 18, William Shakespeare married a woman called Anne Hathaway (the baptismal register says Shaxpere, the marriage bond Shagspere). A young man from a modest but sweet town in a generic and trivial part of England, a common man who would easily be disregarded and looked down upon for his utter lack of any significant personal wealth, education, influential familial connections... Essentially, he was what we nowadays call 'plain'.

So, tell me how, when he abruptly travels to the competitive and hectic city of London, he quickly rises to fame, is thrust into the spotlight, and becomes an 'overnight sensation? Almost instantaneously, his publicity leaps; he is recognised as not just a mere playwright, but one that shook the world with his presence. 'A man who makes poetry of politics. Who transitions seamlessly between vulgar raunchiness and philosophical subtlety.' My question is how?

Anti-Stratfordians (the name given to those who contend Shakespeare wasn't the true author) argue that Shakespeare couldn't have written the heaps of literature attributed to him since he'd only received a primary school education, did not attend university, and therefore would not have learned the languages, grammar, and vast vocabulary used in Shakespeare's works. They also note that both of Shakespeare's parents were illiterate and therefore couldn't pass their 'knowledge' onto him.

THINGS WE SAY TODAY, WHICH WE OWE TO SHAKESPEARE:

"KNOCK, KNOCK! WHO'S THERE?" "HEART OF GOLD!"
 "IN A PICKLE" "SET YOUR TEETH ON EDGE" "GOOD RIDDANCE"
 "FAINT HEARTED" "SO-SO" "SEND HIM PACKING"
 "LIE" "FIGHT FIRE" "BAITED" "COME WHAT MAY"
 "LOW" "WITH FIRE" "BREATH" "THE GAME IS UP"
 "WEAR YOUR HEART ON YOUR SLEEVE"
 "NOT SLEPT" "FULL CIRCLE" "OUT OF THE JAWS OF DEATH"
 "ONE WINK" "NAKED" "TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING"
 "WHAT'S DONE IS DONE" "TRUTH" "BREAK THE ICE" "WILD
 "LAUGHING STOCK" "BREATHE HIS LAST" "GOOSE
 "HEART OF HEARTS" "VANISH INTO THIN AIR" "CHASE"
 "SEEN BETTER DAYS" "POMES YOUR HAIR STAND ON END"
 "DEAD AS A DOORNAIL" "FOR GOODNESS' SAKE" "LOVE IS
 "FAIR / FOUL" "OFF WITH HIS HEAD"
 "GREEN EYED MONSTER" "PLAY / PLAY"
 "THE WORLD IS" "BRAVE NEW WORLD" "A SORRY SIGHT"
 "MY OYSTER" "BE ALL / END ALL"

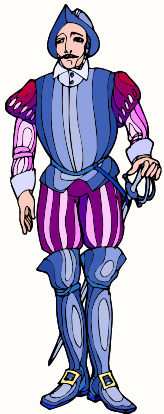




The lack of evidence to show that Shakespeare was an actual person backs up their claims since there were no letters and business documents that survive that give any hint of Shakespeare as an author. Many people believe that the real Shakespeare were people like Francis Bacon, who was a graduate of Cambridge and a well-known philosopher, or Edward de Veren – a poet, dramatist, and patron of the arts. Celebrated playwright, poet, and translator Christopher Marlowe were also on the cards, however, there isn't enough evidence to confirm or deny these claims.



This lack of knowledge can easily be attributed to the simple fact that it was so long ago, documentations aren't exactly easy to keep safe over hundreds of years – even then, it could be forged. There are so many endless questions that arise from Shakespeare's lack of knowledge, money, supplies, education etc. Yet, his known status as such a prevalent man in literature and in society is immeasurable.



Especially considering the fact he could never actually spell his name the right way, it wouldn't be too far off to think that it wasn't even him who had shaped these masterpieces and tragedies that had such a glorious and distinctive impact on the world.

Who knows what the 'real' William Shakespeare was like. Did he know that his name would be recalled so casually and commonly hundreds of years into the future?

In the end, history has been influenced greatly by Shakespeare's work, so it doesn't matter if it's one man or many, William Shakespeare was an icon and still is.

OPINION

PERSPECTIVE

By Dev Verma, 12A

Why is it that we live in a world where life flows irreversibly in a forward trajectory, a world where pausing to look back is a laughable choice, a world where standing still equates to lagging behind and being forgotten?

Some say you must keep marching onwards or inevitably fall victim to the ruthless grips of time. We have been weaved into a perennial loop of working ourselves to a grave where the piles of green paper we dedicate our lives to transform into mere disposable artefacts of our bygone lives. This cycle has continued for centuries, where people have often neglected friends, family, and loved ones to do so...



Until 2020. The ghastly hellspawn of a virus known as COVID-19 (or SARS-CoV-2) has claimed over 4.55 million lives thus far and continues to wreak havoc worldwide. It single-handedly locked us all inside, robbing millions upon millions of currencies from all corners of the world. It is the perfect criminal, committing murder after murder, and stealing hundreds every second whilst we helplessly sit at home watching it unfold. The most wanted fugitive in the world has yet to be captured for its heinous crimes. However, it made us stand still (for once in our lives) and made us realise how quickly we are wasting away, neglecting all the important things that are truly significant. It made us stop dead in our tracks and look around until we assimilated how fast we were truly going.

Moreover, the animal kingdom has been subjected to human reign for an exceedingly long time, yet this virus has been a gift to them. A magical entity that drove all the nasty people away and let them roam freely – something that seems almost too good to be true for them. Throughout the past year, COVID has silenced the entire population, breaking, and tarnishing the chain of dominance that

mankind had crafted centuries ago whilst uplifting the animals of our planet.

Whilst COVID was this nightmarish thing resembling one of the ten plagues of Egypt, I believe there were some slim (but present nonetheless) silver linings in this pandemic. Certain species were able to reappear and grow in numbers, and animals were able to roam around their planet freely for once. For instance, dolphins returned to the coasts of Italy due to the absence of humankind. Many lives have been lost and families have been left traumatised, yet in all its horror, the pandemic still brought with it a glimmer of hope for the future of some animals. Furthermore, we were able to rekindle some of our relationships by creating more intimate bonds to the people we were paradoxically so close to, yet so far apart from in our households.

Like everything in life, we must be optimistic about this matter. Whilst acknowledging loved ones claimed by this monstrosity is important, we must also see the bright side of things. After all, life is but a series of choices: choices of looking at the good or bad and deciding which we would like to pursue and focus on – it is nothing but how we interpret it or rather, our perspective...

A QUOTE TO THINK ABOUT



*"You cannot protect yourself from sadness
without protecting yourself from happiness."
Jonathan Safran Foer*



Events in London

Southbank Literature Festival

Find out more



The Photographer's Gallery Exhibitions

Find out more



Find out more



Second World War and The Holocaust Gallery at IWM

Find out more



Fantastic Beasts: The Wonder of Nature at the Natural History Museum

Find out more



Fashioning Masculinities: The Art of Menswear at the V&A

Find out more



Elizabeth and Mary: Royal Cousins, Rival Queens at the British Library

Alice: Curiouser and Curiouser at the V&A

Find out more



Find out more



BEANO: THE ART OF BREAKING THE RULES at Somerset House

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Did you know...



Salvador Dali designed the logo for Chupa Chups?

A group of butterflies is called a kaleidoscope?

Scotland's national animal is the unicorn?

The largest snowflake ever recorded was 15 inches wide?

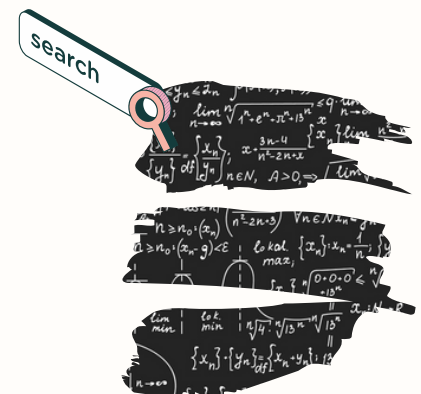
Wider reading



Are you interested in a particular subject? Do you want to expand your knowledge? Are you confused about what A-Levels to pick? Take a look at this document to uncover amazing links suggested by A-Level students and teachers. Just click the 'find out more' button below.

The subjects covered in this issue's pack are:

- Science (biology, chemistry, and physics)
- English
- Mathematics
- Economics
- Art and design



Boost your brain!

with this set of ambitious vocabulary taken from the book '500 Words You Should Know' by Caroline Taggart

QUIESCENT: in a state of inactivity.

The workers were quiescent.

ASSIDUOUS: showing great care and perseverance.

Are you an assiduous student?

A coruscating kaleidoscope of colour.

CORUSCATING: flashing; sparkling.

GREGARIOUS: fond of company; sociable.

He was popular and gregarious.

FEIGN: pretend to be affected by.

She feigned nervousness.

ADROIT: clever or skillful

He was adroit at tax avoidance.

The Heston Voice

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HAPPY AUTUMN



Illustration by Kristina Balashova



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