

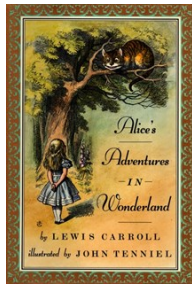


NEW BOOK  
NEW WORLD  
ST JOSEPH OF CLUNY LIBRARY

# Cluny Library News

## Welcome

Welcome to Cluny Library News. I am delighted to report that so far there seems to be, once again, great enthusiasm for reading amongst the students. I introduced beanbags to the library, which (not surprisingly) are proving to be very popular. Book clubs have already started. My first book club was with 6<sup>th</sup> years where we all read a quick read. I read *Unravelling Oliver* by Liz Nugent which was definitely a page turner. I have plenty of new and exciting books in the library. Most of the books I get are recommended by students who can either come to me at the desk, pop their suggestion in the suggestion box or write on the book request board I have in the library. I had an Alice in Wonderland event in the library in September and that was a great success plus I had the usual ghoulish creatures at Halloween. I love doing themed weeks and I look forward to organising more events in the library this year. Students are still flocking in to try solve the puzzle of the week which can only mean my box of lollies are depleting rapidly!.



## Books and YouTubers

YouTubers are a class of internet celebrity who have become famous thanks to the videos they share on YouTube. A number of these internet celebrities have published books which range from fiction and self-help to graphic novels. Thanks to requests from a number of students I now stock some of these books in the Library. *Girl Online* by Zoella Sugg is the most popular. *This Amazing Book is not on Fire* is about the lives of Dan Howells and Phil Lester. In this book they share their teenage diaries, give advice on what to do in an awkward situation and teach readers how to draw cat's whiskers. Fleur de force (real name Fleur Bell) published *The Glam Guide* where she gives tips on things such as fashion, makeup and beauty. Louise Pentland's *Life with a Sprinkle of Glitter* gives stories, insights and nuggets of advice on love, need to knows, creativity and glitz. *Hello Life* by Marcus Butler is a part-autobiography, part self-help guide. Joe Sugg, whose YouTube channel is called *Thatcher Joe* has written the graphic novel *Username Evie*. All these books are in Cluny Library and seem to be pleasant and quirky. They should appeal to any students who are looking for a fun and relaxing read.

### BOOK CLUB

#### THEMES

##### 1st Year

Historical/Futuristic  
Fiction

Animals/ Mystical  
Creatures

##### 2nd & 3rd Year

Dystopian  
Horror/Witches/Vampires

##### 5th Year

Crime/Thriller/Murder  
Mystery

##### 6th Year

Quick Reads  
Read any book

### INSIDE

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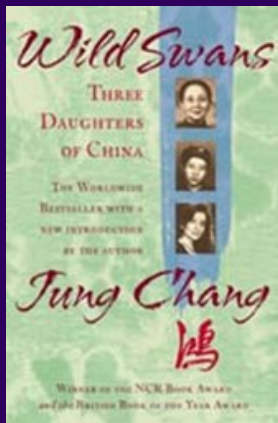
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## Book Review by Ms Ryan, French Teacher



"When he asked my grandmother if she would mind being poor, she said she would be happy just to have her daughter and himself: 'If you have love, even plain water is sweet.'" *Wild Swans*, Chap. 2, p. 55

I first read *Wild Swans – Three Daughters of China* about 10 years ago. At that stage I had never been to China. In light of the fact that I have since visited China on a few occasions and am now completely intrigued by the place, I decided it was time to revisit the book.

It is not a light read, but it does give incredible insight into the history and traditions of this complex culture. It is the story of three generations of women from the same family. Jung Chang, the author, her mother and her grandmother. It is their personal stories, which were the inspiration for the book. However, it is much more than simply the tales of these three women. Each of their personal stories is set against the political and historical backgrounds of that time, so the result is not just a family history, but also the history of China.

The novel opens with Jung Chang's grandmother being bartered to a warlord general as his concubine. It ends with Jung Chang obtaining a scholarship in the UK and in between it touches on everything over this 100 year period, from the Japanese invasion of the country, to the Communist era and the Cultural Revolution. Throughout this period in China, suffering and hardship were commonplace and Jung Chang reveals how difficult life was for the average person in China and how brutal the regimes of the time were.

The Chinese names can be difficult to follow, but Jung Chang includes a chronology of events at the beginning which makes it much easier to follow and she also includes a selection of family photos making the novel all the more poignant.

Despite the fact that this can be at times a challenging read, it is also a story of endurance and survival and above all, family ties. The importance of the family is integral to Chinese culture even still, and that is very well portrayed in the novel. Certain parts are particularly memorable, like the story of Jung Chang's grandmother having her feet bound, as was the tradition at the time. In Chinese bound feet were called 'three- inch lilies' because having bound feet meant that she walked 'like a tender young willow shoot in a spring breeze'. This (very painful) tradition does not exist in China anymore.

I would recommend this book to anyone who has an interest in China and its history and culture, because it does certainly bring the history of the county to life. It is however, not for the fainthearted.



# 150 Years of Alice in Wonderland

To mark the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland* I showcased an exhibition in the library in September. *Alice in Wonderland* is an 1865 novel written by Charles Lutwidge Dodgson under the pseudonym Lewis Carroll. The story was first told to the three Liddell sisters as he rowed down the Thames. The story was about a girl called Alice who fell down a rabbit hole and got into all sorts of adventures after that. After the boating trip ten year old Alice Liddell badgered Dodgson to write it down and *Alice in Wonderland* was born. When students entered the library they could follow a spiralling path of footprints that led to different parts of the story. Such as, the Mad Hatters Tea Party, the Queens Croquet ground and the Cheshire Cat. Most people will probably remember the story from the Walt Disney version, which has quite a different take from the book. Since its' publication *Alice in Wonderland* has never gone out of print and has enchanted millions of children over the globe. Personally I found book quite strange and sometimes very dark but sometimes adults can view books differently. However it did pave the way for a new era of children's literature: books that simply created imaginative worlds in which children could let their minds go free. Thanks to the curiosity, fantasy and downright silliness of *Alice in Wonderland* children's literature may never have branched out into the world of the imagination. Perhaps books like *Harry Potter* wouldn't exist and where would we be without *Harry Potter*?



## Halloween in the Library

The Harry Potter Hat once again made an appearance this year in the library. I had matched each Hogwarts House with the various fiction sections in the library. All students had to do was spin and see if the Hat stopped at Gryffindor, Ravenclaw, Hufflepuff or Slytherin. Wherever the spindle stopped students just had to pick a book matched to that Hogwarts house. I also decorated the library with the usual ghoulish creatures. To promote various books on horror, witches or vampires I had a short quiz where students could win tickets to Dundrum cinema.



## Book Bites: 20 Second Interview with Ms Archibald, Art Teacher

**What are you reading right now?**

*When you are Engulfed in Flames*, David Sedaris

**What was your favourite book as a teenager?**

*Natural Born Killers*, John August and Jane Hamsher

**If you had to choose between books or TV what would you choose?**

Books

**What are the three books you would take with you on a desert island?**

*The Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook*, Joshua Piven and David Borgenicht; *Lord of the Flies*, William Golding, *Jaws: A Novel*, Peter Benchley

**On a scale of one to ten how much of a bookworm are you?**

6 and a half

**So if I say book what's the first word that comes into your head?**

Escapism

# Library Chat with Student Librarians Kirstin Higgins (5C) and Cadhla Turner (5L)

**Out of 10 how much do you like to read?**

Kirstin: About 8

Cadhla: I'd say about 9

**Around when did you start to like reading?**

C: Probably 6<sup>th</sup> Class

K: For me it was 2<sup>nd</sup> Class

**Was there anything that inspired you to read?**

K: I got a book as a present for Communion

**Do you remember the name of it?**

K: No, it was about a girl with a Teddy and they went on all these adventures?

**And you got hooked?**

K: Yes

**And what about you Cadhla?**

C: My mum read me Enid Blyton books when I was young.

**And do you have a favourite book?**

C: It varies. I don't really have a favourite book I have a favourite genre which is crime. I also really like non-fiction books too

**You had borrowed *Child 44* from the library, is that book good?**

C: Yes it's really good

**And do you have a favourite book Kirstin?**

K: It's *The Boy who sneaks in my bedroom Window*. It's so good.

**When would you say is the best time to read?**

K: I read whenever I get a chance for example if I'm on public transport. I have some books on my phone, I didn't realise you could actually download books on your phone. I also read before I go to bed and if I'm studying for English.

C: I think a great time to read is after study to get rid of the stress. When you're reading a good book you forget. An hour is like a minute

K: Yeah you say things like I'll stop after this chapter but you just keep on going.

C: That's how you know it's a good book

**What advice would you give to people who don't like to read?**

K: They should explore the different types of books to try to find something that interests them.

C: There's a book for everybody



**"Take some more tea," the March Hare said to Alice, very earnestly.**  
**"I've had nothing yet," Alice replied in an offended tone, "so I can't take more."**  
**"You mean you can't take less," said the Hatter: "it's very easy to take more than nothing."**  
**"Nobody asked your opinion," said Alice."**