

# THE ACADEMY

Student Newspaper, Volume 4

Welcome to the fourth edition of 'The Academy' Student newspaper, which contains articles and writing from a few of SRPA's English Subject Champions. Herein you will find original student writing in various forms: a play script, poems and prose descriptions. You will also read a range of student book reviews, which feature some of their favourite reads this year. The English Subject Champions have spent a lot of time on this newspaper, so reading it would really support them and their effort! Thank You – Miss Hurk.

## Hiding

By Olivia (Year 7)

### ACT ONE, SCENE ONE

*[The scene is set in a dining room. In the room, we see a table that stretches far and wide. Around the room, there are many pieces of artwork. The overall look of the room is modern. The table is set with plates, cutlery, napkins, candles and garlands. Sat at the table is a family.]*

**Nathan:** *[Messes around with his cutlery]* Who's making dinner tonight?

*[There is an awkward silence]*

**Bea:** Maybe Dad for once!

**Jamie:** I always make it!

**Millie:** Lies!

**Jacque:** Bea is 13, she is old enough to make dinner now! She knows how.

**Jamie:** *[confused]* Bea? Make dinner?

**Bea:** Dad! I'm 13! I'm perfectly responsible enough and mature enough to make dinner.

**Jamie:** *[Surprised]* You're serious... Wow. Well, we are having a roast tonight. If that's okay.

**Bea:** Yeah... Yeah.



*[Family takes chairs out in synchronisation and brings them to the back of the stage and pay close attention to Bea.]*

**Bea:** Right. Roast. Okay.

*[Bea exits stage and comes back on with a massive black bag. The family immediately have a look of confusion and concern on their faces.]*

**Bea:** Turn on the oven to... 200 DEGREES CELSIUS! WHY IS IT SO HOT? *[Family giggles and Bea exits stage again but comes back with a book this time.]* Here we go, 'Family Roast'.

*[Bea places the black bag inside the 'oven' and suddenly there is a big BANG! And the curtains close.]*



### ACT ONE, SCENE TWO

*[This scene is divided into two sides. One side is the kids' playroom, and the other side is the parents' bedroom. The kids' playroom has lots of board games, but they have multiple cobwebs on them as they are barely used. Instead, the kids are sat in different corners doing their own things. The parents' bedroom is neat and tidy with a double circular bed inside. The parents are in a gloomy mood and are trying to comfort and help each other.]*

**Jamie:** I don't know what you're so concerned about. She is absolutely fine!

**Millie:** Jamie. She is 13 and she can't even operate an oven!

**Jamie:** Listen. She'll be fine.

**Nathan:** Do you want me to teach you how to cook? Because that roast was absolutely horrendous!

**Bea:** Excuse me, it was my first time using an oven!

**Nathan:** Really? What about your Food Tech classes? You are in Year 9! You probably have had 100 Food Tech lessons by now.

**Bea:** Don't forget I was out of school for half the year for my surgery and recovery!

**Nathan:** Yeah, and what about the rest of the 3 years?

**Bea:** For two years, I had a phobia of gas and radioactivity.

**Nathan:** Oh my... You are so picky! What is wrong with gas and radioactivity?

*[Jacque randomly appears from behind a cabinet and had tuned into the previous conversation and heard everything.]*

**Jacque:** Some people have different interests and phobias and hobbies.

**Nathan:** Yeah, some people... NOT FROM OUR FAMILY!  
*[Bea and Jacque gasp and Bea starts to hyperventilate.]*  
What? She is the only one who acts different, looks different, speaks different, everything else different!

*[Bea runs off stage.]*

**Millie:** Kids? Are you okay?

**Nathan and Jacque:** Yes! Everything is fine!

*[Nathan and Jacques look at each other, then they run off stage.]*

**Millie:** Bea is too different. She'll find out soon enough... I'm worried...

**Jamie:** She doesn't even know how to operate an oven. Let alone-

*[There is the sound of a door opening. The parents rush off stage. Curtains close.]*

**To be continued...**

## Homework

By Blake (Year 7)

My hatred for you has grown over time,  
Forcing me to work made me sour like a lime  
Homework oh homework, you're despised all around  
In the end there's no place that's safe and sound  
For when you must return back to school  
Your face is a mess and your mouth is covered in drool  
Because all weekend long you've had no rest,  
Forced to study on an important test  
Homework oh homework, it would rather be best  
If there was no homework so kids got their rest,  
Personally, I'd rather be in bed,  
Than have my brain filled with x, y and z.



## Celebrating Christmas

By Hazel (Year 7)

Christmas, a holiday of joy,  
A time that we all enjoy.  
Waiting for snow,  
Drinking a cup of delicious hot cocoa.  
Cuddled up on the sofa with your family,  
Watching an iconic Christmas movie.  
The decorated Christmas trees and, of course, the star,  
This is one of the best holidays by far.  
And, we can't leave him out, Santa Claus,  
The jolly old man with a cause.  
He delivers your presents and leaves them under your  
tree,  
There for all to see.  
Christmas, a holiday of joy,  
A time that we all enjoy.



## The Case of the Missing People

By Ava (Year 7)

In a world full of devastation and war lived Jay, Peter, Anne and Holly, who lived their lives with the constant sound of artillery fire ringing in their ears. But every Christmas Day, they woke up to find somebody missing and last year it happened again... Awoken from his deep winter slumber, Jay found that Holly was missing without a trace and needed to wake everyone up to tell them about this important occurrence. After their meeting, they collected people for a search party and set out to find Holly in the dense wood at the back of their cabin. Searching far and wide, Anne finally found a piece of an antique map which led to a mysterious cave in the heart of the grove. As they entered, they found that Holly was...

## Christmas Poem

By Mabel (Year 7)

From the dark, winter sky,  
Intricate snowflakes fall,  
Covering the rooftops, pavements and all.  
In the winter gardens,  
Snowmen are being made,  
Snow angels appear, from where children have laid.  
Children in the street have a snowball fight,  
The atmosphere is cheery and bright.

Time to go inside,  
 Fingers are frozen,  
 Bath time then bed with stories all chosen.  
 The Christmas tree glistens and glimmers,  
 The star on top sparkles and shimmers.  
 Trying to go to sleep,  
 Eyes closed tight,  
 Excitedly waiting for the morning light.  
 Has he been?  
 Did he come?  
 No mince pie left,  
 Just a crumb.  
 Stocking is bulging,  
 Presents galore,  
 Christmas time we all adore!



### The Comfort of Christmas

By Lydia (Year 7)

The fire crackled merrily in the hearth, casting dancing shadows that played across the wall of Sophie's cosy living room. Snow fell softly outside, blanketing the world in a hushed silence, punctuated only by the rhythmic ticking of the grandfather clock in the hall. Sophie snuggled in a plush armchair and sipped her hot cocoa, its rich chocolatey warmth spreading through her. The steam curled upwards, momentarily obscuring the enchanting illustrations in the book she held – a collection of fantastical Christmas tales. The scent of gingerbread cookies, freshly baked by her mother, wafted through the air, mingling with the piney fragrance of the Christmas tree twinkling in the corner. Its lights cast a warm, inviting glow, illuminating the carefully placed ornaments, each one holding a special memory. A feeling of contentment, of pure Christmas Eve magic, settled over Sophie. She felt utterly peaceful, enveloped in the comforting warmth of her home and the anticipation of Christmas morning.



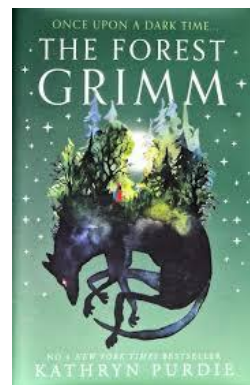
## BOOK REVIEWS:

### The Forest Grimm by Kathryn Purdie

Rating: ★★★★★

Quote from cover- "A spellbinding new fantasy from #1 New York Times bestselling author Kathryn Purdie, where fairy tales come to life with dark, deadly twists."

This is a book I would recommend to people who enjoy adventure stories. In this book, the author subtly weaves in classic takes like Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella, Rapunzel and more but gave them a twist. It is about a girl called Clara who lives in a village where, one-by-one, the villagers go missing in the forest due to a curse. Clara lost her mother to this forest and goes on a mission with her best friends, Axel and Henni, to find her and countless others. Along the way, they meet many of the villagers who went missing and find that they only remember their new lives given to them by the Forest Grimm. Also, one of the characters is found to have a truly different second identity. By the time they reach Clara's mother, she is very different to how Clara remembers her to be...

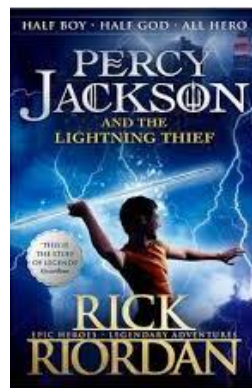


By Hazel (Year 7)

### Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief by...

Rating: ★★★★★

"I love how this immersive adventure combines the mythical beliefs of ancient Greek gods with the modern spark of the 21<sup>st</sup> century."



After roping me in with his ridiculously named chapters, Rick Riordan proceeded to retell the traditional Greek fables with twists. Whether that was having Medusa own a garden emporium, selling her statues as garden decorations, to having a chimera disguised as a poodle, travelling on a train with the mother of all monsters – Echidna.

This is a brilliant tale with a blurb reading:

"Look, I didn't want to be a Half-Blood. I never asked to be the son of a Greek god."

I was just a normal kid, going to school, playing basketball, skateboarding. The usual. Until I accidentally vaporized my maths teacher.

Just adding such simple humour is enough to rope you into one of the best books ever written.

I highly recommend reading this and the rest of the epic series. If I had to read this again, I would, so if you are interested in reading about a mythical journey set in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, this book is for you!

By Blake (Year 7)

This book is also recommended by Mabel (Year 7), who comments...

This book is very entertaining, and I would recommend it to people over 10 years old. The main character, Percy Jackson, embarks on a series of adventures. He is half-God, as his dad is Poseidon, and it contains language that is very immersive to the reader. In this book, Zeus thinks that he has stolen his lightning bolt, but it turns out to be stolen by somebody very unexpected. I particularly like this story because of how the author surprises us by making us believe something about a character and then completely changing our mind about them at the end. It is very exciting, and I would definitely recommend it.



### Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo

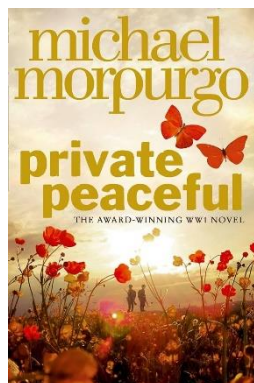
Rating: ★★★★★

Tommo and Charlie Peaceful are brothers who face an eventful childhood with the death of their beloved father, bullies at school, The Colonel, their wicked grandmother (Grandma Wolf) and much more. Whilst forever looking out for each other, the time comes where they must fight in The Great War.

My favourite part of this book is when the Sergeant insists all men must go over the top, despite what he says, Charlie stays behind to protect Tommo.

I recommend it to people who are interested in war, or those between 9-15 years who simply want an entertaining read.

By Hannah (Year 7)

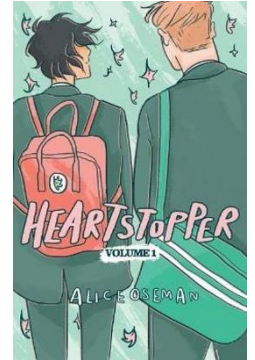


### Heartstopper by Alice Oseman

Rating: ★★★★★

The characters in the Heartstopper series vary a lot, which is good to allow the readers to see the background of the characters freely. The characters also deal with obstacles... mentally or physically, which can be good for the readers to relate to the characters or feel sympathy for them.

The plot of the full story is that the two main characters, Nick and Charlie, are secretly in love with each other. Neither one thinks the other likes them, and then there are multiple turns within their relationship. Eventually Nick and Charlie get together and form a romantic relationship. They all have friends in common who are getting along.



The inclusiveness in the series is exceptional as there are multiple disabilities and communities featured in this. There is the LGBTQ+ community featured within (The LGBTQ+ community is Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer etc.) There are also disabilities featured inside the series as well as exploration of mental health.

By Olivia (Year7)

### Fireborn by Aisling Fowler

Rating: ★★★★★

Fireborn is an amazing book full of adventures of Twelve, Six, Five and Seven. There are three books in this series called: Fireborn Twelve and the Frozen Forest, Phoenix and the Frost Palace and Starling and the Cavern of Light. The first book is full of mystery and suspense, where you meet many caring characters and some wicked foes. In my opinion, these books are an amazing read because they keep you entertained and thrilled at every point, so it is imperative that you read this. These books are perfect to read on a rainy day, if you don't have anything to do. I rate this series a four out of five stars because some of the words I didn't know, so I had to google them to see their meaning.



By Ava (Year 7)

## SRPA English Subject Champions

Whilst not all English Subject Champions took part in the writing of this newspaper, they have nevertheless attended meetings and contributed to the ongoing promotion of reading and writing across the academy by designing and organising events. So, from our very grateful editors, a huge thank you! They are:

Lydia (Year 9)  
Harrish (Year 7)  
Isabelle (Year 7)  
Hannah (Year 7)  
Shay (Year 7)  
Olivia (Year 7)  
Olivia (Year 7)  
Ava (Year 7)  
Hazel (Year 7)  
Mabel (Year 7)  
Charlie (Year 7)  
Blake (Year 7)

We will be publishing a student newspaper every term (at Easter and before the Summer), so if you want to get involved or contribute to the organisation and writing of articles, come and see Miss Hurk in C110 whenever you have a spare moment. There are plenty of new competitions and projects we will be working on into the new year and we would like nothing more than to get as many people involved as possible!

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



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