

THE ACADEMY

Student Newspaper, Volume 5 (April 2025)



Dear all,

Welcome to Volume 5 of the Student Newspaper, *The Academy*. As with the publication of Volume 4 at the beginning of this year, I must thank each and every one of the students who have contributed to this paper – it is inspiring to see the passion and enthusiasm you each hold for English. I would also like to extend my thanks to them for their tireless efforts in creating and publishing competitions throughout the year so far – you will find some of the winning entries contained within – and their desire to encourage other students across the Academy to share their love of writing. Therefore, if you see any of the dedicated authors named herein, please do congratulate them on their dedication and hard work in making *The Academy* a success!

Warmest Regards, and happy reading, Miss Hurk



Hiding – Continued from volume 4...

In the first two scenes of the play, Bea cooked the family a disastrous meal, and her brothers taunted her for this failed endeavour. They later ridiculed her strange behaviour and phobias, indicating that not all is as it seems with Bea. The parents, Millie and Jamie, began to worry for their daughter...

By Olivia (Year 7)

ACT ONE, SCENE THREE

[The scene set is outdoors in a field. In the field, there is a lone rock.]

Bea: *[Enters stage and sits on the rock. Singing to herself.]*

Oh family, is it really family?

Or am I just stuck somewhere in the middle?

I'm not sure where I stand in this town, I don't see.

Is this really how I have to live, different from everyone else?

I only act silly and stupid to blend in.

No one really knows, I don't really know.

Who am I? Where do I stand?

[The parents race onto the stage. Bea is shocked. She stands up.]

Jamie: *[shouts]* What are you –

Millie: *[interrupting Jamie]* – Jamie. Let me handle this. She might have come here for fresh air... or to get something off her mind. There's no one here. Don't worry.

Jamie: *[to Millie]* What are you saying? You're the paranoid one! And there could have been someone here! People can run away y'know?

Millie: *[to Jamie]* Just be quiet. *[to Bea softly]* What brought you out here to the field, Bea?

Bea: Nathan. Jacque.

Millie: Sorry?

Bea: Nathan and Jacque. They think I'm not part of the family because I'm so... different from everyone. You, Dad, Nathan and Jacque. It feels like I am not even a part of this family.

Jamie: *[raised voice, desperate]* Right. That's enough, now she is –

Bea: *[shouting]* I'm what? Stupid? Weird? What is it? Am I so different from the family that you're mad? Want me gone? Want –

Millie: *[softly and calmly]* No. That's not it... You shouldn't think that, thinking that makes you –

Bea: Insane? Yeah. I can tell.

[Bea runs offstage]

Jamie: Well, that may be the end of this.

Millie: Jamie, she might not think that. She thinks she's just different. She doesn't know.

Jamie: But she could. And I am not letting her go just because she thinks that she's –

Millie: Insane?

Jamie: Insane? Maybe she is 'insane'.

Millie: [a look of concern and confusion on her face] What?

Jamie: [Becomes joyful and starts walking around the stage thinking] W-w-we could call her 'insane' and drop her off at 'THE CAMP' and that's it! It's closed and concealed. Not spilled or leaked.

Millie: [Also becomes joyful and cheerful] Yes. Perfect...

[Curtains close]

ACT ONE, SCENE FOUR

[Curtains open, we see a café. Inside the café there are tables, with plates, mugs and bags on them]

Millie: This one sounds good. 'A Summer Camp for Special Girls'. It has— Oh, never mind. It's not secure enough. Bea could easily escape.

Jamie: There's this one... look. 'Mrs Morori's Special Camp for Teen Girls.' It gives girls a chance to become 'sane' and gives them their needs and necessities, and it's very secure... They won't let anyone out. There are about 5 guards per person/room depending on the conditions!

Millie and Jamie: Perfect.

[Millie and Jamie walk offstage with a menacing grins]

[Lights turn off, then on again and we see the coffee tables are lined up straight. There is a peculiar woman standing in the middle of the stage. She looks fierce, strict, but mostly fed up]

Mrs Morori: Alright! Bring 'em in!

[A long line of kids dressed in grey overalls walk in, moping. They sit down at the tables.]

Mrs Morori: Right you! We have a newun' today. 'Er name's Bea. So be nice!

[Laughs awkwardly. There is a sharp, cutting silence]

Ok, ok. Not funny. Anyway... This is... Bea.

[Bea enters the stage and has a look on her face that tells us she is confused; she looks puzzled at the girls, who all look 'different' too]

Bea: [Softly] Hi... [Kids all turn to face Bea and they stare at her blankly] Oh...

[Bea runs offstage]

Mrs Morori: Alright. Everyone back to 'yer rooms.

[All the Kids stand up, get in a line and go offstage, walking in sync]



The Case of the Missing People – Chapter Two

In the first instalment of this story, readers were introduced to Jay, Peter, Anne and Holly, who live in a dystopian, war-torn world. Each Christmas morning they wake up to find someone missing. This year, it was Holly. Whilst they went to look for Holly, they found an antique map, which led them into a forest...

By Ava (Year 7)

Holly was...

She was nowhere to be seen. Filled with shock and surprise, the team wondered where she could be, without realising the absolute dread that was about to come.

Searching for Holly, Anne noticed an almost imperceptible trail of blood leading into the mysterious depths of the gloomy forest. Preparing for the worst, they followed the trail which led to a gigantic smoke-ridden factory, where they made guns, bombs and artillery.

"Cut through the barbed wire fence already, we have to try and save Holly-before it's too late," encouraged Peter.

"I'm trying! Can't you see that I'm cutting it? You need to be more patient you little brat!" Jay snapped as the fence finally broke.

"Guys, can we stop fighting? You're not helping the situation, and you'll get us all killed!" Anne ordered before blood started to drip from her nose.

"HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DELINQUENTS DOING?! LOOKING FOR YOUR LITTLE FRIEND? WELL, GUESS WHAT, I KILLED HER!" shouted a mysterious voice.

The teenagers all gasped in sync as they all looked at each other, working out how to get out of this dangerous predicament they had somehow found themselves in.

To be continued...



Mr No-Emotion

To contextualise this next story, I should first explain that Year 7 have been studying the Gothic this term, learning about its enticing and thrilling style. They were tasked to create their own Victorian Villain, inspired by the darkness, mystery and wickedness of classic novels such as *Frankenstein*, *Dracula* and *Mr Hyde*. The following story fantastically captures the monstrosity and evil of a Victorian Villain.

By Hazel (Year 7)

He's in jail now. That monster, known as Mr No-Emotion, deserved it. He was once so kind, but the older he got, the more hurtful he became. His hair was perfect, his teeth pearly-white, but his teeth were sharp and his skin pale, like a vampire. His eyes were cloudy and showed no emotion, hence the nickname. His clothes were torn and muddy from years of hiding in disgusting places.

I saw him on the news. He was my dad, and eight years ago, he killed my mother.

I had walked into their room, and I saw my mother's body lying on the floor, lifeless and bloody and him looming over her, knife in hand. He then saw me and said, "She deserved it."

He walked towards me, knife still in hand.

"What did Mother do? She didn't do anything..." I slowly backed away, holding back my tears.

"It doesn't matter. Now run, before you join her. You have five seconds."

And so, I ran. I ran far away from that emotionless monster.

Children's Encyclopaedia by Britannica

Rating: ★★★★★

Review by Hazel (Year 7)

This is an epic book that contains so many facts about a vast range of topics, such as "the universe", "life", "today and tomorrow". This 415-page book is useful for homework (although it may take a while to find the correct page!) or for those who are just curious and want to learn about things in a simple and easy way. I believe it is called a "children's encyclopaedia" because it uses less complicated words than Google will often give you, making it much more accessible for younger readers. However, that doesn't mean the book contains any less information – I, myself, have learnt so much from it so far!

Percy Jackson and the Sea of Monsters by Rick Riordan

Rating: ★★★★★

Review by Blake (Year 7)



Percy Jackson and the Sea of Monsters is author Rick Riordan's exciting sequel to the hit novel: *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief*.

It follows the demigod, Percy Jackson, and his newly discovered half-brother, Tyson, who is a mythological being known as a cyclops and friend, Annabeth Chase. Together, Percy, Tyson and Annabeth set off on this thrilling, yet humorous, journey to rescue his satyr BFF, Grover Underwood, who has been kidnapped by the cyclops, Polyphemus. Along the way they encounter strange and fearsome foes.

I loved the tale as it combines Greek Myths with modern twists: for example, like the sorcerer Circe, who now turns men into guinea pigs! I would and will recommend this book to anyone who are fans of adventure, action, fantasy and comedy. Five Stars!



COMPETITION WINNERS

Below is a selection of the winners from two of the competitions we have hosted over the last two terms. The first is one of the winners from a competition inspired by International Women's Day, which asked students to research an inspirational woman and write a biography about them. The second was launched in February and centred around the theme of Valentines and encouraged students to write a love letter or poem to someone or something they love. It has been fantastic to, yet again, see the effort from students across our Academy in competitions such as these.

BOOK REVIEWS

For this volume, the students have reviewed a book they had read and found most interesting. The reviews cover a chilling dystopian novel, an exciting fantasy quest and an educational non-fiction book. It is always interesting to hear about and discuss the students' current reads in our meetings and I hope you are intrigued to read below about what books they have enjoyed.

Gone by Michael Grant

Rating: ★★★★★

Review by Mabel (Year 7)

'Gone' is a dystopian fiction novel by the author Micheal Grant and is set in a town with three teenagers who are faced by a sudden problem; everybody over the age of fourteen disappears. They must work out how to fend for themselves and survive, while discovering that some children are developing powers. The book sucks you in and makes you want to keep reading because the author ends chapters with cliffhangers that leave you wanting more. If you haven't read anything by this author before, I recommend you give him a try.





Submission by Hazel (Year 7)

A FAMOUS
SUFFRAGETTE

EMMELINE

PANKHURST

INFO

Born: 15th July 1858
Died: 14th June 1928
Born in: Moss Side, Manchester
Died in: Hampstead, London
Professions: Politician; Social
activist; Political
activist

FAMILY

Husband: Richard Pankhurst (1834-1908)
Prof. - Politician; barrister; advocate
Children: Christabel Pankhurst (1880-1958)
Prof. - Political activist; book editor;
architect
Sylvia Pankhurst (1882-1960)
Prof. Artist; political activist
~~Adella~~ Adela Pankhurst (1885-1961)
Prof. Politician; political activist
Henry Pankhurst (1889-1910)
Frank Pankhurst (1894-1888)
Parents: Robert Goulden (1830-1892)
Prof. Managing director
Sophia Goulden (1833-1910)

WHO WAS EMMELINE?

Emmeline is one of the most famous suffragettes who's main goal was to make voting rights equal for both men and women. She founded the Women's Social & Political Union (WSPU). During their campaigns, the suffragettes disrupted public meetings and many did violent things. For example, they smashed windows; set post boxes and buildings on fire. Whenever they were arrested or imprisoned, they went on hunger strikes.



"QUOTES"

"I would rather be a rebel than a slave"
"Deeds not words"
"Trust in God - she will provide"

WHY SHE IS INSPIRATIONAL

I find Emmeline is inspirational because she fought for women's rights no matter the consequences. Even after she was arrested, she kept fighting and wouldn't give up because she wanted what she believed in to happen.

FEBRUARY VALENTINES COMPETITION WINNERS

Submission from Niamh (Year 9)

To my special someone,

You are the best person I've ever met. You mean the world to me. I don't know what I'd do without you. You are amazing and beautiful. I'd do anything for you. You are perfect just the way you are. The most kind, caring and gorgeous person I've ever seen. Even if it's long distance, I'd spend every second thinking about you. I wish we could be with each other daily because I feel lonely and bored without your lively presence around me. You are always there for me when I need you, and I'm there for you when you want to talk to someone or cry. I don't expect you to be happy all of the time. I want to see how you really feel. When you're upset my priority is you, not me.

From your love.

Submission from Olivia (Year 7)

Dear my Love,

This is me confessing
what I truly feel.

My love is like steel

It stays strong

and long, and

When I see you

My heart takes over too.

This letter may be
in the shape of a bottle,

But let me tell you, my favourite animal is an axolotl,

And I love you quite-a-lot-l.

All my love.



KS4 BOOK CLUB

This term has seen the launch of a new KS4 book club, which gives students the opportunity to read new books and broaden their literary horizons. Students were given the choice of a range of classic novels by the literary canon and chose *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott as our first read.

The meetings take place each **Thursday, break 1 in C110**. It is a great chance to read new texts and share insights

about fascinating novels. At these meetings, we also determine the next section to read, so please don't worry about reading entire novels each week!

It has been fantastic to see the students' engagement with this book club so far and the conversations about the reading have been insightful and thoroughly entertaining.

If you are interested in joining, you can still catch up – come and speak to Miss Hurk for more information!

Review of *Little Women* by the KS4 Book Club

Little Women is a bildungsroman (a literary genre which focuses on the growth and formative years of a protagonist from their youth into adulthood) that was written briefly after the American Civil War. Despite this, it feels modern and relevant. It explores the coming of age of Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy as they navigate adolescence into adulthood. The sisters are all fleshed out with their own unique motivations and are given the autonomy by their mother to foster their skills and aspirations. There are moments of joy, conflict and growth, making the characters relatable and imperfect to the readers. Alcott approaches her characters with grace and develops them throughout the novel, all the while returning to the theme of sisterhood. *Little Women* is a classic for a reason and perfect for first-time readers of this era's (Victorian) writing.

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE ENGLISH SUBJECT CHAMPIONS?

We meet every other week (Red week) on a Wednesday, during break 1 in C110.

These meetings are a chance to plan and share ideas for upcoming competitions, as well as work on writing for the next issue of the newspaper.

All are welcome, so just come along if you are interested!



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