

The Submarine

VOL 6 NO 1

MARCH 2011

EDITORIAL

The Junior Certificate Support Programme is a Department of Education and Science intervention strategy for potential early school leavers in disadvantaged schools. One element of this intervention strategy was the establishment in 2002 of the JCSP Demonstration Library Project. Eleven disadvantaged schools were selected nationally, and in them high quality school libraries were set up, staffed by full-time professional librarians with particular expertise in literacy.

Imagine—you are a pupil in a socially deprived area and all at once a fully-equipped library arrives and is integrated seamlessly into your school. This library is specifically tailored to your needs in the books and resources it holds, in its internet access, and in its librarian, who is not only professionally qualified but has undergone additional training in literacy teaching. Your new school library, like the other JCSP libraries, is a “creative active learning space designed and run specifically to improve literacy levels and enhance the learning experience of JCSP students,” while the JCSP librarians who staff them have received “intensive training from the JCSP Support Service in literacy and language development specifically aimed at underachieving disadvantaged teenagers.”

A 2005 report on the scheme, “Room for Reading”, included the following findings: significantly improved reading scores among students, increased book borrowing, better school attendance, improved retention to senior cycle, improved concentration levels and increased interest and motivation. By 2009 the JCSP library project had expanded to include thirty schools—full credit to the Department for introducing and developing such an innovative project.

Sometimes we can take our own beautiful library for granted, simply because it is so much part of the fabric of the College and features so often in our day-to-day routine. It has always been there (in pupil memory), and it always will be. Imagine, though, if it was to suddenly disappear.

Imagine if the doors were locked and the chairs put up and the books abandoned to dust and cobwebs, and that you were left peering in through the windows, wondering what had happened. In 2010 the last government decided to place a blanket embargo on re-employing temporary non-frontline staff—remarkably JCSP librarians are only employed on one-year contracts—which meant that JCSP libraries would effectively cease to exist by August of that year. After eight years of investment in infrastructure and training and staff the entire project was going to be allowed to lapse for the sake of the salaries of thirty librarians. Imagine too the sense of desertion that would be visited on JCSP students, their families and their communities, for there is no doubt these libraries have had a community-wide impact.

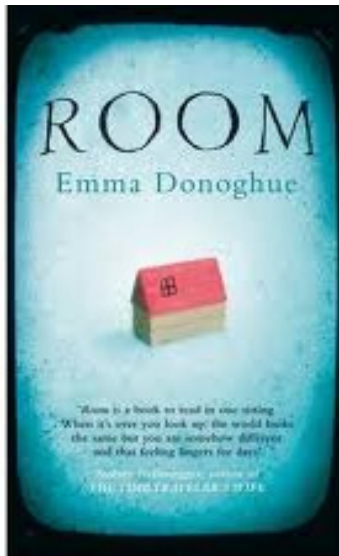
Eventually, after intense lobbying by both public and private bodies, including Children’s Books Ireland, the Children’s Laureate, Siobhan Parkinson and the School Library Association Republic of Ireland—the then Minister of Education and Science, Mary Coughlan overrode the decision and re-contracted the JCSP librarians.

For one year.

So watch this space. New government, new minister, new contracts needed in August. And next time you go to the Library perhaps you’ll give a nod of recognition to a privilege that we take for granted, but which many others can’t.



These two Columbans wrapped up well during the cold snap
—photo Amelia Shirley



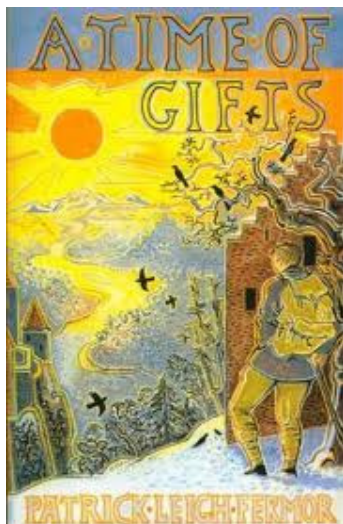
REVIEW – ROOM by EMMA DONOGHUE – MS
McENEANEY

I was drawn to this book when I heard about its subject matter; the lives of a young woman, kidnapped and imprisoned in a heavily fortified garden shed, and her son who was born into this captivity. At the same time I felt guilty about my fascination with this type of story, the same ambivalence which had stopped me reading media coverage of real life survivors of such kidnappings because I felt the media's sensationalising of these stories was distasteful and exploitative. Quotations from reviewers on the back of the book persuaded me that this was instead a sensitive exploration of those dark experiences and I am glad that they did so.

Reviews have rightly commented on the emotional power of this story; the loving relationship between the mother and son is moving without being sentimental, since their situation inevitably leads to problems in their relationship and these are also examined.

Another special feature is how the author has managed to tell the story through the language and understanding (and misunderstandings) of the five year old in a way that is both believable and thought-provoking. I found their invention of new words, such as 'scave' - feeling scared but acting brave - charming. My young son also makes up his own words and so this added authenticity to the fictional character for me.

An aspect of the book I was not expecting was how exciting the middle section is. I stayed up to the small hours with my heart thumping to find out what happens. The final section is perhaps the most interesting and deals with long-term consequences of such treatment and touches upon the damaging role the media can play. Overall Emma Donoghue has crafted a story of hope and a tribute to the human ability to survive and to stay human despite dehumanising situations.



REVIEW – A TIME OF GIFTS
by PATRICK LEIGH-FERMOR – LUDO STEWART

Recently I read "A Time of Gifts" by Patrick Leigh-Fermor. It is a travel book about his journey from the hook of Holland to Constantinople. This is the first volume that deals with his journey from Holland to Estrygon in Hungary. One of the reasons it is a very interesting story is because he is travelling in Europe on the eve of the Second World War. His descriptions of Jewish communities and old buildings that were destroyed during the previous war are memorable and moving because they remind us of how much was lost. Much of his journey is through countries newly created after the dissection of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Leigh-Fermor provides an insight into the racial and social problems of this struggling state. Leigh-Fermor also has a vast knowledge of arcane information and uses anecdotes that enliven his masterpiece of flowing prose. I feel that he writes with a very good style using vivid descriptions and informative insights. I genuinely think this is one of the greatest travel books of the century and I would thoroughly recommend it to you.

NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY: These are some of the books we added to our shelves last term.

JUNIOR FICTION

Artemis Fowl and the Atlantis Complex, Eoin Colfer
The Bone Magician, F.E. Higgins
The Cardturner, Louis Sachar
Crash, J. A. Henderson
Heroes of Olympus: the Lost Hero, Rick Riordan
The Hunger Games, Suzanne Collins
Hush: a slave princess' tale, Donna Jo Napoli
Lock and Key, Sarah Dessen
The Necromancer: the secrets of the immortal Nicholas Flamel 4, Michael Scott
No and Me, Delphine de Vigane
Now, Morris Gleitzman
Red Spikes, Margo Lanagan
Revolver, Marcus Sedgwick
Shadow Wave, Robert Muchamore
Skulduggery Pleasant: Mortal Coil, Derek Landy
Withering Tights: the misadventures of Tallulah Casey, Louise Rennison
Xisle, Steve Augarde

JUNIOR NON-FICTION

Guinness World Records 2011, Craig Glenday ed.
What you will see inside a mosque, Aisha Karen Khan
What you will see inside a synagogue, Rabbi Lawrence Hoffman
The Young Inferno, John Agard

SENIOR FICTION

The Big Bad Wolf, James Patterson
Blood's a Rover, James Ellroy
 C, Tom McCarthy
Cutting for Stone, Abraham Verghese
The Finkler Question, Howard Jacobson
Freedom, Jonathan Frantzen
Heartstone, C. J. Sansom
The Help, Kathy Stockett
Lean on Pete, Willy Vlautin
Looking for Alaska, John Green
Love is the Higher Law, David Levithan
The Oh My God Delusion, Ross O'Carroll-Kelly as told to Paul Howard
The Pillars of the Earth, Ken Follett
Room, Emma Donoghue
The Spider Truces, Tom Connolly

SENIOR NON-FICTION

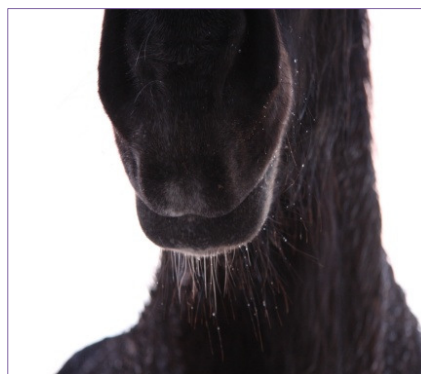
Eat, Pray, Love: one woman's search for everything, Elizabeth Gilbert
The Grand Design, Stephen Hawking and Leonard Mlodinow
The Idea of Justice, Amyrta Sen
A Journey, Tony Blair
Obama's Wars: the inside story, Bob Woodward
Oxford Russian Dictionary, Marcus Wheeler editor
Reading like a writer: a guide for people who love books and for those who want to write them, by Francine Prose
Top Gear Supercars: the world's fastest cars, Top Gear magazine
Traditional Crafts of Ireland, David Shaw-Smith
The Wise Heart: Buddhist psychology for the West, Jack Kornfield

POETRY, PLAYS AND PHOTOGRAPHY

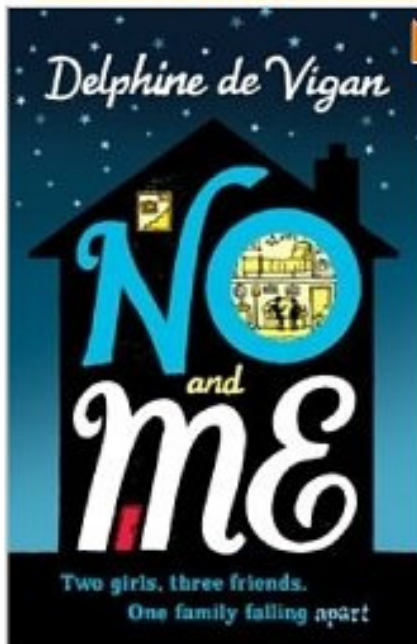
After the Dance, Terence Rattigan
Don McCullin, Don McCullin
Human Chain, Seamus Heaney
In the Ninth House, Louise C. Callaghan

SPORT

101 Youth Basketball Drills, Mick Donovan
101 Youth Cricket Drills, Luke Sellers
101 Youth Football Drills, Malcolm Cook
Basketball Skills and Drills, Jerry V. Krause et al.
The Basketball Book, Sports Illustrated
Among the thugs: face to face with English football violence, Bill Buford
Come what may: the autobiography, Donal Og Cusack
An Illustrated History of the GAA, Eoin Corry
Open: an autobiography by Andre Agassi
Rugby Union Manual: the official guide to playing the game, Howard Johnson
The Ultimate Guide to Hurling by Gavin Mortimer



--photo Amelia Shirley



REVIEW – NO AND ME by DELPHINE DE VIGAN
– SALLY KEMP

Lou Bertignac is a thirteen year old girl living in Paris. She has an IQ of 160. Since the death of her baby sister, Chloe, five years ago, her mother has not come outside their flat and her father secretly cries in the bathroom every night. As part of a school project, Lou interviews an eighteen year old girl called No, who is homeless. They quickly become friends and No moves into their flat. This story follows their unusual friendship and the obstacles they encounter. We watch the effect one girl can have on a family that has been torn to pieces.

Lou is an extremely imaginative character, and her narrative is one of main reasons I was so lured into this book. She creates all these possible situations for herself in the future. She analyses every situation as if it was a crime scene investigation of some sort. She is so keen to expand her knowledge and find a reason for everything, even the meaning of life. The best example of this would be when she spends every Sunday conducting all these experiments with household appliances. Her thought process is so fascinating, you almost get lost in her thoughts—I started to question almost every aspect of my daily routine just as she did. At the start of the book, she tells us how she likes to go down to the train station after school so she can watch and feel the different emotions of those departing. It is then that she changes from the typical shy, clumsy girl who is a bit of an outcast to a unique, highly intelligent, deep girl with an incredible mind. As the book progresses, she becomes more and more likable and her huge capacity for love and affection becomes more and more apparent. Her parents have completely neglected her, yet she understands that this is not what any of them want. Her mother has been depressed since the tragic loss of her baby sister and her dad is using up all his energy to keep her from the edge. Lou is left to bring herself up. Her optimistic narration is the main reason this book wasn't a sloppy, depressing mess.

I felt the characterisation in this book was excellent. Every character felt so real, I could really identify with all of them, except for maybe No. No, when I look back on it now, is a very confusing character and I really couldn't understand some of the things she did, but I believe this is intentional. I think she is meant to remain somewhat of a mystery to us, the kind of character that when you close the book, you think "What's going through her mind at this point?" or "Why does she act the way she does?" You're left to make your own presumptions and oddly, I really like that. No developed from a tough, no-good failure living in the streets to a sweet although awfully troubled and lost eighteen year old in need of help. She was so unpredictable it made it hard to put the book down. There were times when you loved her and there were times you wanted to jump into the book and slap her across the face. I also liked how Lucas, Lou's romantic interest, in whom she grows closer and closer to as the book progresses, is characterised. He, too, is transformed from the typical "rebellious hot guy who every girl wants" to a raw, misunderstood, genuine boy who has been neglected by his parents, just like Lou.

The story is set in Paris, but not the so-sophisticated, glamorous Paris we read about in Vogue, but the real Paris. The grotty streets are filled with hundreds of suffering people with nowhere to go, no one to turn to and yet people walk past them every day as if they're just pieces of discarded litter. This is the dark, grim side of Paris that I had never thought of until reading this book.

One of the key moments is when Lou first meets No at the train station. No comes up to Lou asking for a cigarette. Lou doesn't have any but gives No a few euro for some food. No then asks her a series of random questions, like where she lives and why she was at the

station. This may not seem like the most significant conversation but it is crucial to the storyline, because otherwise Lou would never have got to know No, and such a life-changing friendship would never have happened. The most interesting part of this scene is what Lou says afterwards about her encounter with No: “When I was there with No, you could have drawn a circle round us, a circle that didn’t exclude me, which enclosed us and for a few minutes protected us from the world.” This shows early on the effect No had on Lou—that in just talking to her she felt an immediate connection. To Lou it felt as if there was no one else surrounding them, in such a crowded place and it felt like that they were only two people there and they were protected from the outside world in those few minutes .

Another key moment is when No comes to live with Lou and her shattered family. It is the first time in almost five years her mum changes out of her nightdress and makes an effort with her appearance, and also the first time in five years there’s been fluid conversation at the dinner table. No’s presence has brought their family back to life. It is also the starting point of the gradual process of Lou’s mother, Anouk’s, recovery from depression.

The final key moment I will mention is the ending. No and Lou decide to run off together to Ireland so No can finally reunite with her high school sweetheart, Laurent. Lou and No stay the night in a shabby hotel room together, having the time of their lives. The next morning they go to the station and No goes to buy the tickets while Lou waits for her. No doesn’t come back. Neither Lou nor Lucas hears from her again. They consult No’s friend from school, Genevieve, who works in the supermarket and she says that she has no idea and that, despite what No had always said, Laurent never wrote to her, that they hadn’t been in touch at all since No left school. I thought long and hard about this for many days and I’m still very confused as to what No was doing just leaving Lou like that. Why did she do it? Was she just a pathological liar? Had everything she’d said throughout this story just been lies? I initially thought this wasn’t a good ending at all, that it was a major disappointment. But now as I look back on it, it really added to the story and to the mystery that is No. It made me think a lot about it afterwards and I think that’s the effect Delphine de Vigan had intended.

I really liked this book. It wasn’t the most uplifting of stories, and it was for the most part heart-wrenchingly sad, but Lou’s optimistic, imaginative “thinking outside the box” point of view holds the book together. It is extremely gripping: I finished it in two days, I simply couldn’t put it down. My favourite characters and the characters I identify with most are Lou and Lucas. Lou, because she was so dedicated and such a loyal character. For example, through all No’s drinking and abuse of other substances, Lou always stuck by her, and no matter what, she would never give up on her. And Lucas, because he was so genuine and so brave. Throughout the story he was Lou’s rock and the fact that he was, underneath his reputation, a true gentleman makes him extremely difficult not to love. I couldn’t really put my finger on a particular favourite part but the ones I liked were definitely Lou’s anecdotes from much simpler times when her parents were happy and still knew how to love and care for her. She describes them so well. They were still so vivid in her memory, and they are just painted in such beautiful pictures.

DONORS

Once again we have benefited from very generous donations of books and funds. We extend our thanks and gratitude to:

Mr J.R. Brett, Mr N. Coldrick, Ms Phil Flanagan, The G.K. White Trust, Dr G. Bannister, Mr H. Jones, Mr T.O. Read, Rev. N. Crossey, Mr Michael Warren, Mr R. Swift, Mr Thomas Donnelly, Dr David Sowby, The Tuck Shop.

WHAT'S READING ME?

After our 'subdued', not to say 'extended' Christmas, The Submarine thought it only right to ask if people could remember what books they got from Santy.

MR JONES: Physicsy books. Oh flip...I can't think...flip! Em... (resumes intense action on laptop) Erm...type, type...errrm type, type...typetype, type...the new Roddy Doyle! Flippin'—! I *think* it's Roddy Doyle. Type, type. (Not the new Ross O'Carroll-Kelly?) God no! I don't—ha! God no typetypetypetypetypetype. (Mr Jones looks up.) You're an awful fecker!

MR GIBBS: Mountaineering ones mostly, from cousins. And Sally¹. I've read one and I'm half way through the other. **K2: Life and death on the world's most dangerous mountain.** That's a bit more about the history of climbing K2. And **Life and death on K2** by Graham Bowley, which is about the disaster in 2003, I'd recommend it, how people respond in situations like that. Each mountain has its own problems which you've got to solve, the Bottleneck on K2, and the sérac². (Serac?) It's a mountaineering term. Serac.

MR JONES (bawling at his laptop): NO, IT'S NEIL JORDAN! **MISTAKEN.** I haven't had a chance to start it yet!

MR COLDRICK: I'll write it up and leave it in to you on Monday. (No, no, just off the top of your head, we'll jot it down as we go.) I'm going to give them to the Library as soon as I've finished them. (No, no, it's just to jot down what you...admittedly he *is* wearing earphones.) Oh, I see! (One earphone comes out. He smiles.) Presents for myself from myself. (The other earphone comes out.) **A Different Drummer**, which is a biography of Ken MacMillan, a famous English choreographer, he's been dead for a few years, he did *The Judas Tree*. (Korean is he? asks Mr Gibbs.) And the one that won the Booker—? (**The Finkler Question.**) Yes, that's it, *The Finkler Question*. And Joseph O'Connor's *The Ship?...The Light?...The Star? The Light? The Lightship? The Lightshop? The Sea Star? The Starship? (The Ship Sea? The Shipshop?) Ghost Light!* Who wrote *The Finkler Question* by the way? (Howard Johnson.) Yes, that's right, Howard Jacobson. I'll give them all into the Library when I'm finished.

MR GIBBS (sternly, from his chest): Erm, that was 2008 by the way, the K2 disaster, not 2003.

MR O'SHAUGHNESSY: Guide books on Poland, mostly. In Polish. (The Submarine's face falls.) And a biography of Leonard Cohen. (Oh good.) Which isn't much good. This chap doesn't get to interview Leonard Cohen, he just uses websites and newspaper articles. It's a reheated roast, really. An example of bad research. Yes, and I'm reading **Le Petit Nicolas** in Polish. (Look, it's only a field trip to Krakow, you don't need to go to all this trouble—erm, you must be familiar with them already in French, so that's useful?) No, these are new adventures Goscinnny's daughter has had published. They're about five pages

each, very funny. They translate very well into Polish. (Polish again! I wonder...is there someone special he wants to impress?...It's not Dr Bannister, is it? –Would you care to say something in your new language?) Yes, okay. What will I say? (Say, 'Good morning, Dr Bannister'.⁴) "*Polecam książkę "Mikolajek"*³. (Thank you!) You're welcome.

MS SMITH: I got a brilliant art book from my mum. Artists' self-portraits. (Who's it by?) Er, they're like, *self-portraits*? (Oh. Heh!...?) I can't remember its name. I'll find out for you, I've only looked through it.⁵ She gets them from the Guardian books page. (I like the Guardian's books, the Irish Times can be very Hibernocentric.) And this one, **No and Me** by Delphine de Vigan. I'd heard it was about Mr Jones's cornflakes and thought I'd read it. (Sally Kemp did her book report on it.) Good! The language is lovely, I'm only on page 20. Oh, and Donna Tartt's **A Secret History**, a friend gave me that. It's a strange mix, blockbuster crime and ancient history. (Just like Mr Jones's cornflakes!) *What?*

MR CANNING: Yep. Alright. **The Glass Room** by.... by... God, who's it by? (Did you or did you not have breakfast with Mr Jones?) It was a Booker contender a little while back. A house exists in Czechoslovakia—who *is* it by?⁶ (Not even a corner of toast? A little toastie even?) It's about the couple who live there, they had to leave when the Germans came. The house was taken over by a German scientist who measures humans, *üntermensch* and *übermensch* and all that stuff. It starts with a ninety year old woman who comes back—you see I haven't finished it yet. (It's the story of the house, really?) Yes. It's written in short snappy paragraphs, so it's good to read. (There's A Glass Room by Katherine 'Jonesy' Holmquist in the Library catalogue?) Definitely not!

DR SINGLETON: Yes, I got lots. Oh God, I can't remember—don't ask me!—isn't that terrible! Mr Jones must be putting something in the cornflakes. (Something 'physics'?) Oh yes, **Family of Empire** by...by...I can't think! It's the second in a trilogy, about a Yorkshire mining family. The son joins the British Army to see Mr Jones's cornflakes against their wishes. It's worth persevering with. I also read **Christine Falls** by Benjamin Black, who in real life is...is... (A cornflake?) John Banville. I didn't like it at all, it didn't hold my attention. It's a murder-mystery linked with illegal adoption in 1950s Ireland. It really dragged—I usually finish my breakfast but I had to work hard at that one. And **The Story of Ireland** is a nice little synopsis of Irish history—a little reminder of all the bits you've forgotten, and whether to put sugar on, and the complicated bits like the plantations, which you can look into in more detail if you want. (I think you liked C.J. Sansom's books too?⁷) Yes, brilliant. That was my summer reading. I want to read his modern one now.⁸

¹ Mrs Gibbs

² **sérac** – tower or pinnacle of ice, usually perched and liable to fall.

³ Ask Dr Bannister

⁴ Dr Garry Bannister

⁵ **A Face to the World: on Self-portraits** by Laura Cummings

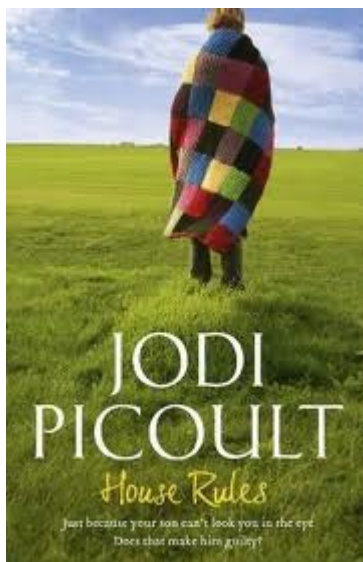
⁶ It's by **Simon Mawer**

⁷ the '**Shardlake**' series, set in Tudor times

⁸ **Winter in Mr Jones' Porridge Bowl**

REVIEW—HOUSE RULES le JODI PICOULT – MENA FITZGIBBON

Is leabhar ‘House rules’ ar cé chomh difriúil is a bhreathnaíonn an tsochaí ar dhaoine agus ar chruachás theaghlach amháin a fhulaingíonn go mór dá dheasca. Iníúchtar conas a oibríonn ár gcóras dlí go breá do dhaoine áirithe agus go huafásach do dhaoine eile. Díríonn an scéal isteach ar bhuachaill darb ainm Jacob Hunt, déagóir ar a bhfuil siondróm Asperger. Ní éiríonn leis déileáil go maith i gcomhthéacs sóisialta agus mar a tharlaíonn go minic le daoine mar é, bíonn suim eisiatach aige in ábhar amháin, agus maidir le Jacob is é an anailís fhóiréinseach a thograíonn sé. Gnáthaíonn Jacob de shíor na láithreacha coire agus insíonn sé do na póilíní cad ba chóir dóibh a dhéanamh. De ghnáth bíonn an ceart ag Jacob. Lá amháin, áfach, faightear a theagascóir sóisialta marbh ina hárasán féin, agus tagann na póilíní le ceisteanna a chur ar Jacob. Cuirtear dúnmharú a theagascóra



‘House Rules’ is a book about how society views people differently, and the trials one family goes through because of this. How the legal system works well for certain people and awfully for others. The story centers around a teenage boy, Jacob Hunt, who has Asperger’s syndrome. He is hopeless socially and like a lot of people with Asperger’s he has a special focus on one subject, which in his case is forensic analysis. He continuously shows up at crime scenes and tells the police what to do and he is usually right. However one day his social tutor is found dead in her apartment, and the police come to question him. He is accused of murder because all the evidence

ina leith mar feictear dóibh go bhfuil an fhianaise go léir ina choinne de bharr an éagumais atá air – is é sin nach féidir le Jacob féachaint ar dhaoine eile idir na súile, preaba neamhthoiliúla a choirp, a mhothachtáil mhí-chuí, an bealach nach féidir leis ach an chiall litriúil a bhaint as abairtí mar: *“Tá na cnoic ag luascadh”* agus i gcúirt dlí cuireann sé sin go léir dealramh na ciontacha go mór ar an bhuachaill óg. Scrúdaíonn an leabhar na dearcaí éagsúla a bhíonn ag a mhuintir agus an méad struis mar aon le brón a thagann orthu de dheasca an phróisis ar fad. Mar a tharlaíonn i ngach ceann dá leabhair, cuardaíonn Jodi Picoult cás práinneach fírinne dár saol nua-aimseartha agus léiríonn sí go hálainn é ar leathanaigh a leabhair. Níl aon dabht ach gur píosa próis spreagúil ar fad é a choimeádfadh léitheoir ar bith ar cheann cipíní ó leathanach go leathanach go ceann scríbe an leabhair.

points at him but only because of his disability—not being able to look people in the eye, stimulatory twitches, inappropriate effects, taking a saying e.g. “The hills are swaying” but only seeing the literal sense in it—in a court of law this makes him look extremely guilty. The book looks at the different points of view of his family and the amount of stress and grief his disability puts them through. Like in all of her books Jodi Picoult visits an extremely real and pressing concern in society today, and presents it beautifully on the page. Her book is awe-inspiring and keeps you guessing till the last page.

We're Reading...

Ms Smith asked some of her Junior pupils to report on their book choices

Hugo Caminow (I) is reading *Stuff of Nightmares* by **Malorie Blackman**

This book is about a sixteen-year-old boy who is in a train crash. As a result he has to go into people's (and sometimes his friends') nightmares. This book is disturbing at times and uses bad language but it's compelling and unusual.

Petra Duran Basso's (P) choice is *The Mosquito Coast* by **Paul Theroux**

Allie Fox hates America, and he hates the twentieth century. He takes his wife and children to Honduras in search of a new and simple life. It makes you think about the important things in life.

Douglas Boyd-Crotty (P) is reading *The Thing with Finn* by **Tom Kelly**

The book tells the story of a boy who was a twin, but whose twin, Danny, has died. It's sad but also strangely funny. (For a senior book on a similar theme see Gerbrand Bakker's excellent novel *The Twin*).

Michael Bellamy (P) is reading *Beautiful Dead* by **Eden Maguire**

I would recommend this book because it is exciting to read. It's about a girl whose boyfriend dies in a car crash. She finds him (and others) as ghosts and makes a plan so that she can spend more time with them.

Aoife Smith (II) recently read *The Track of the Wind* by **Jamila Gavin**

I like this book because it's extremely realistic but not at all boring: the story is about how an Indian family who were separated 1948 are reunited. The reunion is not as it seems, everything is out of place. This is the third volume of the highly recommended *Wheel of Surya* trilogy.

Edward Tottenham (II) recommends **William Golding's** classic *The Lord of the Flies*. *The Lord of the Flies* is about a group of boys who survive a plane crash and find themselves on a desert island. We read about their adventures, a beast that petrifies them, and see the savagery that humans are capable of.

Freya Pierce (II) is reading *I Capture the Castle* by **Dodie Smith**

I definitely recommend this book because it is both moving and funny. It is about a young woman called Cassandra who lives in a crumbling castle and has a beautiful sister called Rose. It is set in the 1930s and is a deserved classic.

Cosmic by **Frank Cottrell Boyce** is recommended by **Andrew Holt** (I)

Cosmic is about a boy who just loves theme parks. He is the lucky winner of a ticket for the best ride in the best theme park in the universe: space! He soon finds himself there...

Darcy Maule (I) is reading *Knife* by **R. J. Anderson**

Knife is a book about a fairy that lives, as she always has, in an oak tree. She is curious about the outside world but she is forbidden to venture out there as she is not yet a

hunter. When Knife (the fairy) finally becomes a hunter she is allowed to go out into the big wide world but she is unprepared for all that she will meet.

Katie Stewart (I) likes *Ash* by **Malinda Lo**

Ash is about a girl who lives with her stepmother and stepsisters. She is forced to be a slave (sound familiar so far...) but when she goes into the woods she finds a mysterious form of life. Fairies are in the shadows. This book may sound childish but it most certainly is not; it is CREEPY.

Tessa Harley (I) is reading *Angus, Thongs and Full-frontal Snogging* by **Louise Rennison**. I have only just started this book but so far it's really good. It's about a girl with loopy parents and an annoying sister trying to get through life.

Iselle Barnes (I) recommends *Are you there God, it's me Margaret?* by **Judy Blume**. Judy Blume is a lovely writer in my opinion. In this book she writes about a teenager named Margaret. The book is about jealousy, friendship and lies and is told through the voice of the teenage Margaret who talks to god about her problems. It's definitely worth reading!

Jack Murphy (I) has read *Pig Heart Boy* by **Malorie Blackman**

A boy called Cameron needs a heart transplant but there is a shortage of human donors so Doctor Byrne suggests an experiment. Yes, he suggests that instead of a human heart they use a pig's heart - a pig called Trudy's heart. This is a great book that says a lot about friendship.

Eleanor Moffitt (I) recommends *The Elephant's Tale* by **Lauren St John**

The Elephant's tale is set in Kenya, in a safari park. It is about a girl and her love of animals. She is on a mission to save her family's safari which is under threat of closure by a wealthy business man who plans to kill the sick or older animals, and wants to sell rides on her beloved giraffe. I loved this tale of adventure and couldn't put it down. I highly recommend this novel.

P O E T R Y O U T L O U D

A French Poem

This charming traditional poem was sent to The Submarine by one of our French readers. He points out that it is written in a regional *argot* or *patois* and is best appreciated if read out loud. He believes by its rhyming scheme that it belongs to the "Oeuf" or "Egg" school of the walled parts of northern Normandy.

“Un petit, d’un petit”

Un petit, d’un petit
Cette honneur voile,
Un petit, d’un petit
À deux grêt folle.

Eau de quinze orsées
Agneau de quinze mains
Coup-de-noix pu un petit
Tout gaizère arguene!

...from back page

twists too. Clare also experiments with the genre to create some wonderful originals, such as a Jewish vampire who is not at all fazed by the sign of the cross, but can be trapped for hours by the Star of David.



Finally, Dublin born and bred Sarah Rees Brennan has a trilogy of her own. **The Demon's Lexicon** (followed by *The Demon's Covenant*) follows two brothers, Nick and Alan, who, along with their crazed mother are on the run from a mysterious magician's circle. For me, the best part of the book was definitely the dynamics of Nick's relationship with Alan, whom he has always depended on and trusted but now things are changing rapidly. The story is a bit slow-moving at times but it's still highly enjoyable, especially the scenes in the vibrant Goblin Market and the disturbing and creepy House of Mezentius.

So there's some spring reading for you, perhaps a bit of a change from beach chick-lit, but none of it's really that taxing. Stephenie Meyer, eat your heart out. There are new kids on the block, and they're heavily armed.

So, you know. There you go!

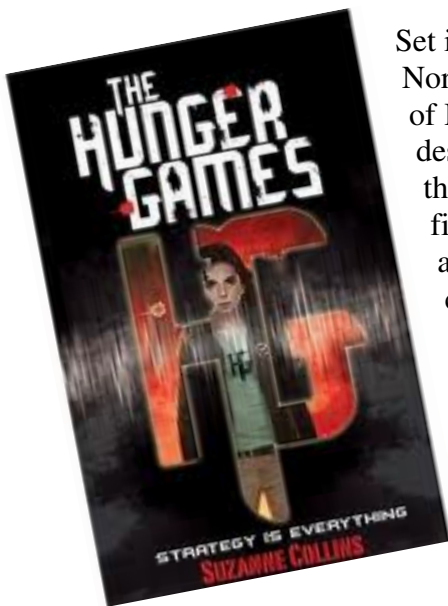
WORLD BOOK DAY 2011

World Book Day was held on 3 March this year. As well as our well-established Favourite Book survey (thanks as always to the English department) the Library provided a Junior crossword puzzle and Senior "Dewey Tale" quiz. €10 book tokens will be distributed shortly to our lucky randomly-selected winners. As for St Columba's favourite book this year, 147 votes were returned, listing 101 individual authors and 115 separate book titles, a testament once again to the broad and vigorous reading tradition in the school. Our top choices were *How many miles to Babylon* by Jennifer Johnston and *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins, both with 4 votes each. Then with 3 votes each came *Class A*, *The Recruit* and *Mad Dogs*, all by the supremely popular Cherub author Robert Muchamore, and *Noughts and Crosses* by Malorie Blackman, and Derek Landy's *Skulduggery Pleasant*. As for our favourite author, yes it's that man again, Robert Muchamore, with a whopping 14 votes, followed by Michael Morpurgo with 5 votes, Jennifer Johnston and Suzanne Collins with 4 votes, and Malorie Blackman, Derek Landy, Jodi Picoult and Morris Gleitzman, all with 3 votes.

Forget Vampires, I want Dystopians and Demon Hunters...

MIRIAM POULTON gives us some visceral alternatives to mainstream Twilightitis

EVER SINCE the Twilight bonanza, that section of the bookshop dubiously known as “Teen Fiction” has exploded into rows and rows of black-covered fantasy romances. Unfortunately, brooding-and-unimaginably-good-looking-hero-with-dark-secret-inexplicably-falls-for-clueless-spineless-heroine isn’t really my thing, and definitely isn’t the winning formula that publishers seem to believe it to be. But amidst all the werewolves and angels and authors trying to put meaning behind flowers like red tulips and wild peonies (I ask you, what’s wrong with roses these days?), I’ve come across a few gems—a trilogy of trilogies, if you will.



Set in the future (century unspecified) on the continent once called North America, Suzanne Collins’ **The Hunger Games** tells the story of Katniss Everdeen, a girl just about surviving in the coal-mining and desperately poor District 12. Every year, two “tributes” from each of the twelve districts are taken from their homes and put in an arena to fight to the death. Katniss takes her little sister’s place in the games and is thrown into a world of ever-shifting alliances, bizarre costumes, primitive weapons, gruesome violence and, of course, her fellow District 12 tribute, Peeta Mellark, who might be the death of her but might also be her only chance of getting out alive. It all seems rather unlikely, but not only does Collins make it work, she turns it into a heart-racing thriller that literally leave you gasping for more. Katniss is not easily forgotten, and her story continues in *Catching Fire* and the final instalment *Mockingjay*, which came out last August.

Cassandra Clare’s urban fantasy trilogy **The Mortal Instruments** (beginning with *City of Bones*) has a good few things going for it. Firstly, it combines the demon-killing supernatural police called the Shadowhunters (who keep a spare supply of weapons under the altar of Catholic churches) with vampires, werewolves, warlocks, demons, angels and faeries, all living in the underbelly of New York City. Secondly, there’s a sarcastic and generally brilliant joke on almost every page. And then, of course, there’s Jace Wayland, a Shadowhunter who, on the range of literary heartthrobs is somewhere high above Edward Cullen and only a little below Mr. Darcy. At times the plot—especially the romantic elements of it—can seem forced and at others it’s painfully predictable, but there are some completely wild ... *continued inside back page*

