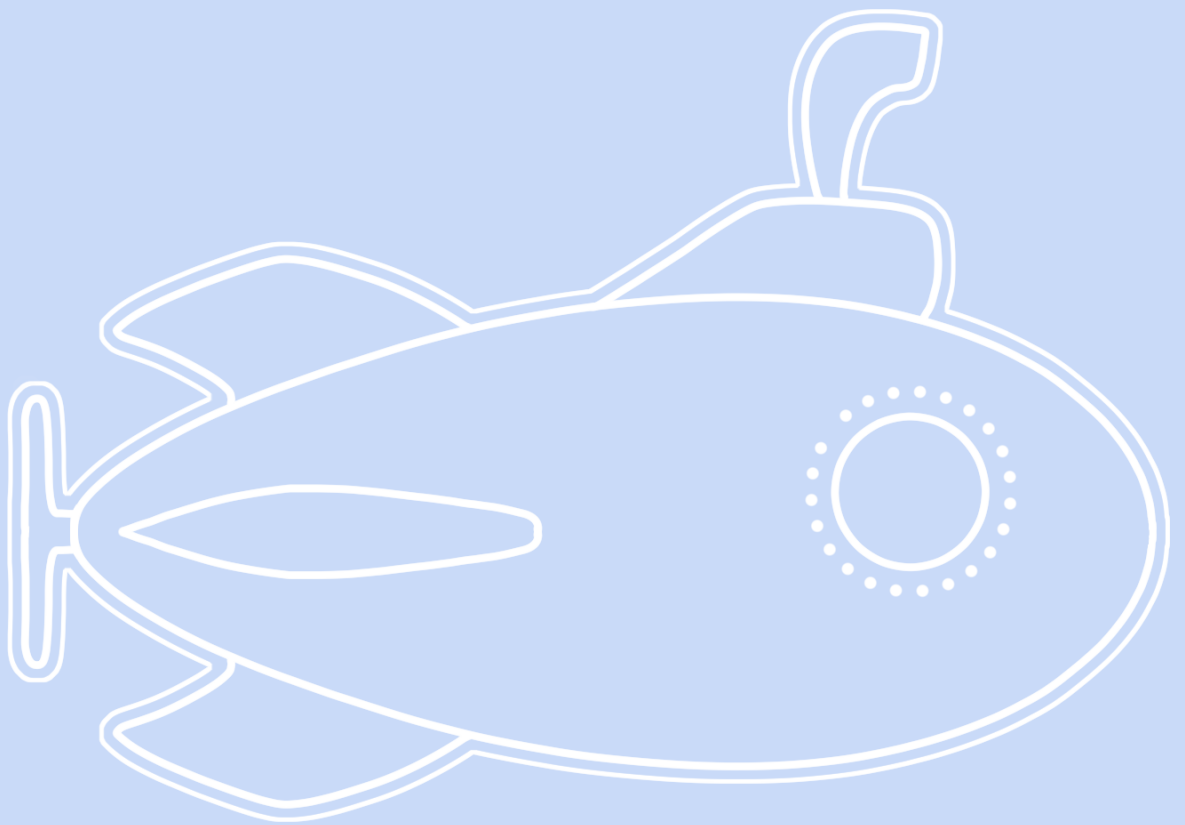


Submarine

-your voice-



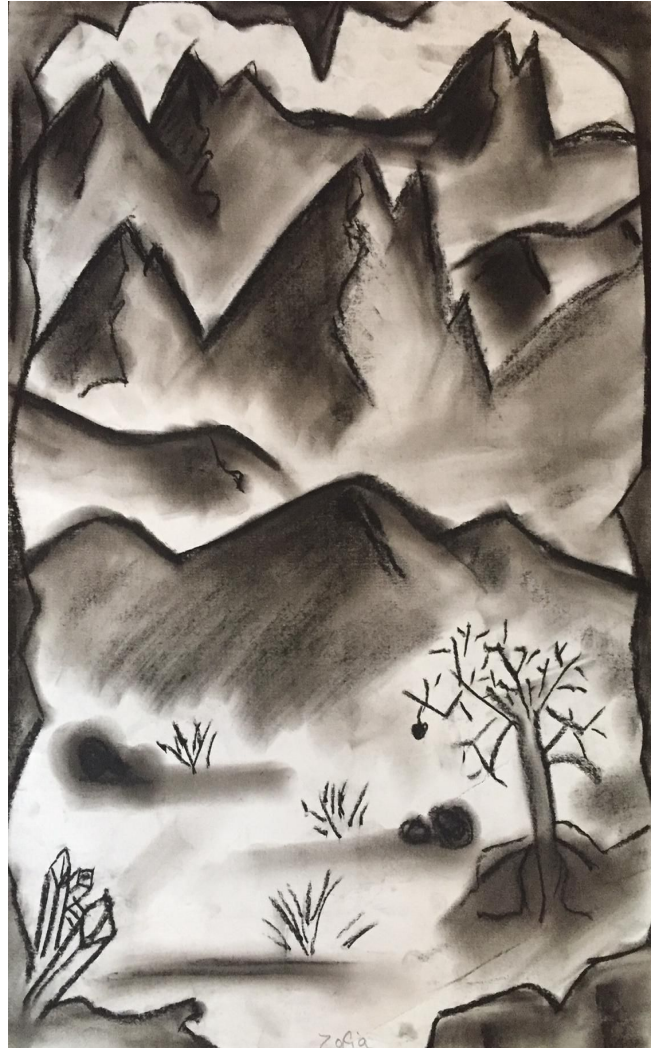
Hilary 2020

Note from your editors

Hi everyone, we hope you and your families are staying safe and keeping well during this pandemic. Due to the term ending early, we are publishing an online only version of the magazine.

There's the usual wide range of topics, Sinead Cleary writes about the racism associated with Covid-19, we have a film review and book recommendations from the first years to help keep you occupied. We hope you enjoy this edition.

Avi and Edna Johnston



Zofia Cannon-Brookes, Form III

**SEND US YOUR WORK:
submarinescc@gmail.com**

Coronaphobia*

On February 11 the Irish Times reported that there were in total sixty five suspected cases of coronavirus in Ireland. All of them were tested negative but the article brought to light how much concern there is around the coronavirus spreading to Ireland, just after the World Health Organisation declared it a global epidemic.

I think that from what can be observed online and from people in general, the coronavirus is a cause for concern for a lot of people. And that even though people are aware of it, no one's really made an effort to understand it. When you look at the statistics, it can sound very scary.

Within the first few weeks, there were more confirmed cases of the coronavirus than the total number of SARS cases in 2003.

China put over 50 million people under an effective quarantine, the largest in human history.

For about a month after the first confirmed case, authorities kept the public in the dark, in particular about how contagious the virus is.

The truth is, and most people must know by now, that the coronavirus kills mostly people who are old, have had previous health conditions and generally have a deficient immune system. It's not a death sentence to get the virus. But it is completely understandable that people are afraid of how easily and quickly the virus spreads and how little we know about it. But fear is no excuse for stupidity and insensitivity.



Rita Schack, Form V

When the news of the coronavirus dropped, so did a lot of tweets, posts and of course- the memes. For all the old people reading this who still don't know, memes are images, videos, pieces of text, etc., typically meant to be funny, that are copied and spread rapidly by Internet users, often with slight variations. They're often a little offensive in their nature and employ dark humour. To a certain point, I think that they're absolutely hilarious, but when something like the coronavirus happens, people are willing to cross boundaries to be funny. People are willing to exploit the shock factor.

For example, a meme posted a few weeks ago featured a picture of someone in a plague doctor costume with the caption "Coronavirus has reached Europe. Time to suit up and beat up any chink I see". There are a lot more of them along the same lines.

Has anyone ever insulted you, and really hurt you, and when you confronted them about it, insisted that it was just a joke and that you were being too sensitive? I mean, this is exactly what happens every day on the Internet. It's the easiest way to not take responsibility for saying horrible things. You don't have to use the word chink to be funny. You can do racial humour and not be racist. You can challenge people without tipping them over the edge. I'm aware that no one really can set the boundaries of what's OK and what's not, least of all me, but this was clearly unnecessary.

When people responded to this post with criticism, they were accused of being sissies and not having a sense of humour. Undermining someone's feelings like this is a cruel tactic to come out of the discourse feeling like a winner. People react so strongly because there is a history of prejudice and pain behind their reaction. Don't undermine someone's feelings just because you can't handle the consequences of your words.

It should also be noted that people are more willing to make these memes because, in general, there is less backlash because there is less awareness around racism against Asians.



Arizona Ford, Form V



Iris Foster, Form V

Racism is sometimes just seen as a black-and-white issue, literally and figuratively. But it's not and it's never just been that. Movements against racism towards black people are absolutely necessary and should continue to happen. I don't want to diminish them in any way, but I wish to simply point out the fact that no one seems to care about racism against Asians. And believe me, there has never been a shortage of that.

I have Chinese friends who study overseas in England, Australia, Canada etc. and it is crazy how much they have to go through on a daily basis. When the news of the coronavirus dropped, some of their classmates would not go close to them. Parents reported to the school board that it was a safety hazard to have them around. My friends have explained to these people again and again that they haven't been to China in eight months, and it has almost always fallen to deaf ears. This attitude existed before the spread of the coronavirus. When one of my friends arrived at her boarding school last year, people refused to speak to her because of her poor English. She had to leave 6 months ago because someone spray-painted the word "chink" on her locker door. On holiday last summer, an old classmate of mine waited to get served in a restaurant, a waitress mimicked her mother's accent and laughed when her mother confronted her about it. In general, a lot of people are made to feel like perpetual foreigners in the homes they are trying to build.

And these are the rare cases. Racism shows itself more in the form of microaggressions. Nowadays, people are driven by something more subtle than overt racism. Racism is not always loud. Most of the time, it's quiet. It's in the way someone looks at you, covers their nose when you walk past, a whispered comment. Most of the time, it's in the subtext among the chaos. But people do notice it, and it hurts.

I don't want to make this issue bigger than it is. I acknowledge that racism is nowhere like what it was a century ago and that there is no way we could ever eradicate racism completely, but we can and should be doing better.

I don't want to come across as someone claiming to be a victim of racism because I'm very lucky and I truthfully have never experienced much prejudice at all. It's easy to talk about equality when it makes you look good, when it's always been a certainty in your life like it's been in mine. Because of that, I think that if you have the power to do so, you should try to make people aware. We need to stop relying on discriminated groups to defend themselves because sometimes they aren't given the chance to and sometimes they've been told they can't speak about something so much that the idea of doing it is terrifying. I know that these are pretty obvious things, but I do think that sometimes we need to be reminded to *do better*.

Racism against Asians did not pop up out of nowhere. The coronavirus just pushed the little vestiges of prejudice in people to the foreground and exposed them to the public. It's uncomfortable to talk about the parts of ourselves and our friends and family that are hateful and fearful but this is precisely why we have to explore them and understand them.

When things like this happen, we have a choice- is our fear of the unknown going to motivate us to come up with solutions and make things better, is it going to inspire open and honest conversations or is it going to drive us to reach for the comforts of blaming, shaming and hatred?

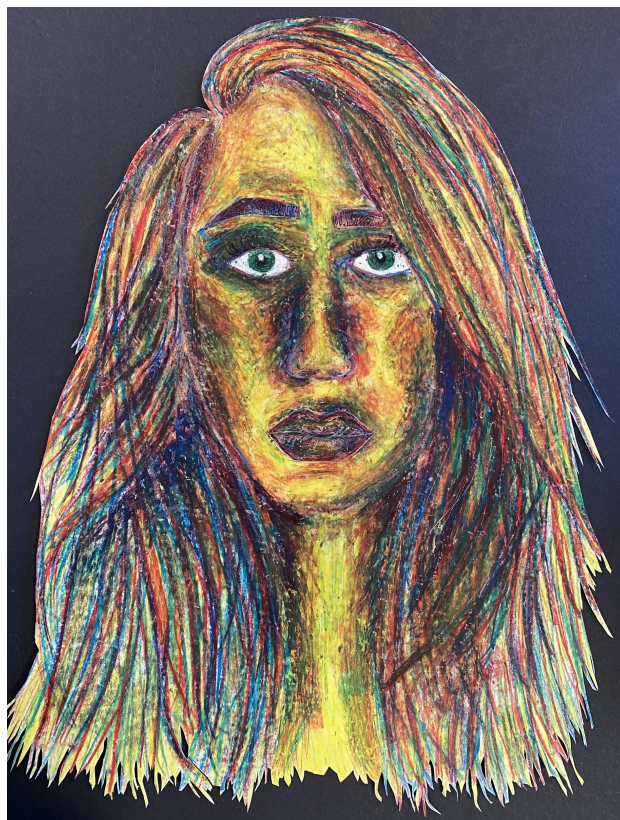
What will you pick?

Sinead Cleary

Form V

***Written**

February 2020



Eléa Strahl, Form IV

Life In Spain

I have lived in Spain since I was born and I think that after eleven years I can call myself an expert on "Spanish Life": the food, traditions, siesta,....

Food is a very important part of Spanish culture: jamón, lomo, Torrijas, tortilla de patata, bocata de calamares, cocido, paella, gazpacho, croquetas, roscón de reyes, mazapán, turrón, polvorones, tarta de Santiago, churros, pulpo... I don't think I know anyone who doesn't like at least one of the foods I have just named.

In Spain we consider bullfighting to be very entertaining and I know it's a bit sad, but it is considered an honor for a bull to enter the ring. They have been trained their whole lives to fight, and only the strongest ones get the "privilege" to do so. If you ever visit Spain, I recommend you to go to Barcelona, Madrid, Valdecañas, Menorca, and Mallorca Santander, Ibiza and see one of the bullfights.

Sometimes in school people ask me what siesta means. It means that after lunch you sleep for about three hours or so, and I do remember when I was about 4 years old.. I had a siesta time IN SCHOOL. But don't be mistaken, even though we really enjoy our parties, our meals and sleeping we still work really hard in Spain. I hope that you now know a bit more about Spain, and it's culture having read my piece. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME, and always remember VIVA ESPAÑA.

Paz Guitart, Form I



Maria Grimalt Pujol, Form IV

Film Review Of Jojo Rabbit:

JoJo Rabbit which was released in early January of 2020, is set during the Second World War, and is directed by Taika Waititi. This film takes a slightly unconventional approach to the war movie, as it is warm, innocent and light-hearted. Of course, as it is a war movie, there are, quite naturally, sad parts to it, so brace yourself for a few tears. The story surrounds a ten year old boy called JoJo, and his mother Rosie Betzler, as they navigate living in the totalitarian Nazi regime. JoJo is a blind (not literally) Nazi fanatic, who is part of the Hitler Youth and who even has an imaginary friendship in Adolf Hitler. The humor surrounding this friendship has led to some scathing reviews about the film, with critics objecting to the romanticising of Hitler's image. However, don't let these reviews put you off, as you can form your own opinion after watching it!

JoJo's innocence and naive outlook excuse his extreme views, for the most part, as we are shown the absolute control the regime had over every aspect of German life, which means it seems impossible that he would not believe what he does. JoJo, and his adorably cute best friend Yorki, venture off on their very first Hitler Youth Camp weekend at the start of the film, and both of them are terribly excited about it. Well, they would be - they get to play war games, practice ambush techniques and even blow stuff up! What ten year old boy wouldn't be excited by that? They discuss Jews and their strange mind reading techniques, but unfortunately for JoJo, the weekend doesn't seem to last long, as his imaginary friend Adolf gets him into a spot of bother! JoJo ends up with the more non-combat task of putting up propaganda posters around his town (which doesn't impress him). However, imaginary Hitler appears to him in his moments of emotional need, bucking up his courage and encouraging him to "Heil" more confidently!

JoJo's mother Rosie, played by Scarlett Johansson, is an admirably strong character who seems to have her head screwed tightly onto her shoulders. She has a beautifully playful relationship with her son, but shows a quietly determined hostility towards the Nazi regime. JoJo's father is not at home, possibly fighting in the war, but the impression is given to us that he is a deserter. One day, JoJo finds out there is a Jewish girl who was friends with his deceased sister hiding in his sister's room, which leads to him panicking and then a clever play on words, as the girl (Elsa) says "You know what I am...say it!" and JoJo meekly replies "A Jew", to which she says "Gesundheit"!

JoJo then strikes a deal whereby he will not tell on her, if she tells him all about the strange customs of the Jews, which he 'knows' to be true. Despite JoJo's anti-semitic outlook, they soon develop a close bond that imaginary Hitler is most annoyed about. The more time they spend together, the more JoJo begins to question his loyalty to the Nazis and the opinion of his imaginary friend (Hitler). The humor and elements of satire keep the film individually afloat from sinking into the usual pattern of second world war movies. And, despite his Nazi tendencies, JoJo sees the world through the eyes of an innocent child who just wants to be part of a club and is oblivious to the horrors the Nazis committed. I tend to judge a film by the level of emotion I feel when I leave the cinema, and the emotion that it makes me feel. When I left the cinema after seeing this film, there was a sort of melancholy warmth that spread through me as I pondered the power that the bonds that we make as humans have throughout our lives. The strength of the bonds JoJo has with Elsa, Yorki and, of course, his mother, shows the importance of kind relationships during times of strife and sets an example for all of us in the turbulent age we live in.

Aiyuni O'Grady, Form V



The Lego League

The Lego League is a global challenge designed to get students to use science and engineering to solve real world problems. In January 2020 Dublin City University hosted the Leinster leg of the competition. It incorporates three parts, first the robot game, then second designing an innovative project and finally core values.

For the robot game you have to design a robot and program it to do tasks. The tasks change every year to make sure nobody reuses ideas from previous years. Most of my time was spent programming the robot. An example of the tasks the robot had to complete are a crane you had to use to lower blocks, then push the blocks to ramp to finish. Inside the robot game there were three rounds. Unfortunately we did not do so well in the first two rounds but in the last round we improved. It was the most challenging part of the whole league as we had no experience programming or how to design a robot to fit so many tasks.

The innovation part of the project was to find a problem with a building or public space and to design a solution. We chose the College obstacle course as our problem. Not many people know that we have an obstacle course in Deer Park. The aim was to renovate the course. The original course had trees planted in the way, so when Mr. Gibbs renovated some of the obstacles, he had to redesign the course. With the help of Mr. Sherwood, we went through the old course and thought of plans for new obstacles.

The core values are the generic values expected in a competition. These are inclusion, team work, discovery, innovation, impact and fun. We found some of these challenging as even though we had a big team of twelve people (the Form IV Computer Studies set) most of them were unable to go to the competition in DCU as it fell over Exodus. Myself, Eyitore and Orrin represented our class at DCU, and we missed our teammates. There were five categories of winners: robot game, robot design, innovation project, core values and overall performance. We sadly did not win any of these but the whole day was a lot of fun and I would recommend going if you do Computer Studies in Fourth Form.

Mika Sacolax, Form IV



Georgia Goodbody, Form II

Short Story

Laurence, Harry, Victoria and Matthew climbed the steep hill, sweat dripping from their foreheads, dust appearing under their feet.

“How much longer?” Laurence questions,

“Not much” Harry replies. Evergreen trees form up ahead.

“See campground is just ahead” Victoria says.

A little backstory..

These four are best friends from Denver, Colorado. They attend Westmoore High. Harry is 16 years old, and is a mathlete and junior scientist, he transferred to Westmoore High two years ago. Laurence, is originally from New York, she's a well known cheerleader and enjoys partaking in science competitions, she is blond with green eyes and is of medium height. She is 15 years old, soon to be 16 and is great friends with Victoria. Victoria is from Denver originally, she's 15 and she has light brown hair and blue eyes, she wears glasses and enjoys horse riding, English and maths. She's of medium height and slim. She plans to move to Arizona for college.

Mathew, is nearly 17, he is blond with green and brown eyes and he's tanned. He was born in Denver, but plans to move after college. He participates in football and baseball, but also likes business and German.



Eyitore Gbenga-Ajayi, Form IV

They have all been best friends since 7th grade. They even call themselves family. This story is based in summer 2018, on a clear, hot, blue skies day, so of course they planned a hike. Just for the day, to celebrate school being over, they also planned a barbeque once they reached the campground, and their parents are to pick them up at 7 that evening. As the trees form ahead, everyone sighs with relief.

“Another 20 minutes though, guys” Vic mentions.

“How did you convince us to come on a hike?” Laurence shakes her head, Harry laughs.

A noise comes from a nearby bush, bighorn sheep appear out of it. The boys jump into action chasing after it, not a wise idea, leaving the girls to follow.

“We shouldn't go off the main trail,” Vic says, but no one is listening. As the group chase the animal and the boys, they trudge deeper into the forest.

“I lost sight of it” Harry says,

“Forget about it, let's go back to the campground” Mathew replies,

“Guys, where is the campground?” Laurence asks,

“it's just up ahead” Harry says, everyone gazes around them, the truth was nobody knew where they were,

“I think we're lost” Mathew exclaims,

“Yeah” Vic says,

“No signal” Harry states, checking his phone.

So swarmed by trees, and in the middle of the forest. They had no way to escape.

Vivian Tuite, Form II



Zofia Cannon-Brookes, Form III

First Form Reviews You Need To Read

Rock War by Robert Muchamore

This book is the first in a series of three but I will mainly just be talking about the first one, Rock War. I loved the first and I am halfway through the sequel, Boot Camp. Robert Muchamore is a really good writer and I can't put down his books. This book is about three main characters all around the age of 14. Jay who is a lead guitarist, Summer who is so good at singing that she gives people goosebumps and Dylan who can play a bit of everything but specialises in music production.

None of them know each other and they are all in separate bands but they eventually meet each other when they are picked for a reality TV show called Rock War. Rock War is a camp where twelve bands stay and get filmed. At the end of Rock War there is a competition where only one band can win....

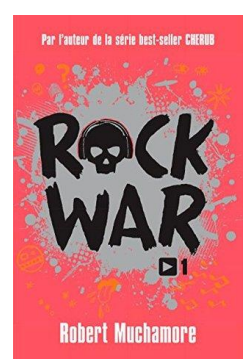
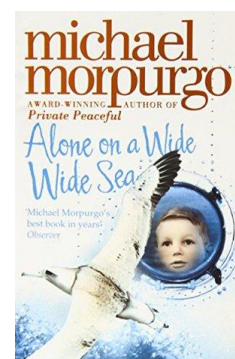
This first book was so good and I can't wait to read the others. It explores so many different sides to young teens and it's just overall a great book.

Jasper Wilkinson, Form I

Alone on a wide wide sea by Michael Morpurgo

When an orphaned Arthur Hobhouse is shipped to Australia after World War II, he loses his sister, his home, his everything. But the rest of his lifetime would test him to his limits as he goes through horrible mistreatment and forced labour. He is saved so many times by his love for the sea. In this story Morpurgo takes you on a journey through Arthur's life. I love the way Arthur has such an emotional connection with the sea and sailing. This story keeps the reader guessing and the characters feel so real. The bits I really loved about the story were the parts that made you happy and sad at the same time. I love Michael Morpurgo and this was a classic Morpurgo novel. I think really any age group can read this but it is definitely good for kids as it is about growing up and getting through hard times. I think I'd give it a rating of 8 out of 10.

Aran Murphy, Form I

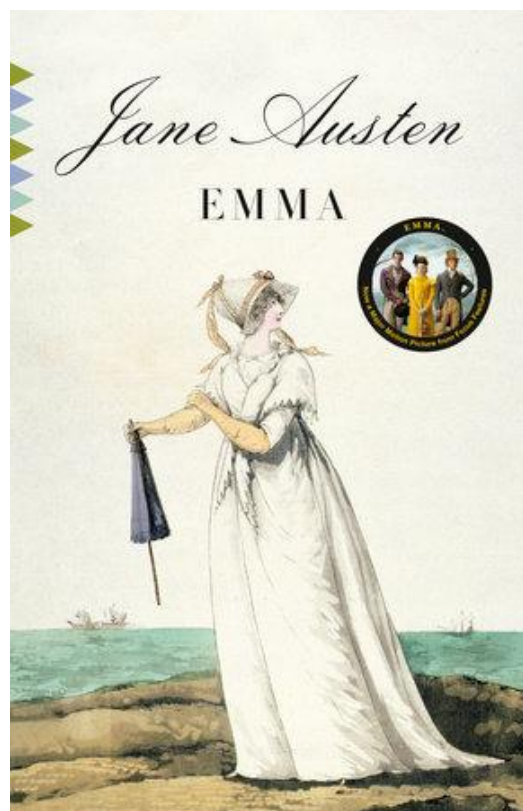


Emma by Jane Austen

This story is based on a young woman called Emma Woodhouse. Emma is twenty years old. She lives in Highbury with her father, Mr Woodhouse. When Miss Taylor, Emma's governess, moves out to wed Mr Weston, Emma is very upset but she is also proud as she believes that she is fully responsible for the matching of Miss Taylor and Mr Weston. In fact, Emma believes that she has a talent for match making and decides to make another match. The match goes terribly wrong and feelings get hurt.

At the beginning of the book I didn't like Emma much as she liked to meddle in other people's lives, she was vain, greedy and arrogant. Then I began to soften to her character and to like her as she tried to change her ways and started to display different traits such as kindness, loyalty and wit. My favourite character was Mr. Knightley as he was a true gentleman with great integrity. I enjoyed the book so much I couldn't put it down. The themes of the book are relationships, family, love interests and how people interact with each other. Overall, I really enjoyed this book and I would highly recommend that you read it. Reading it has made me want to read more classics and more Jane Austen books.

Aeladh Bradley-Brady, Form I

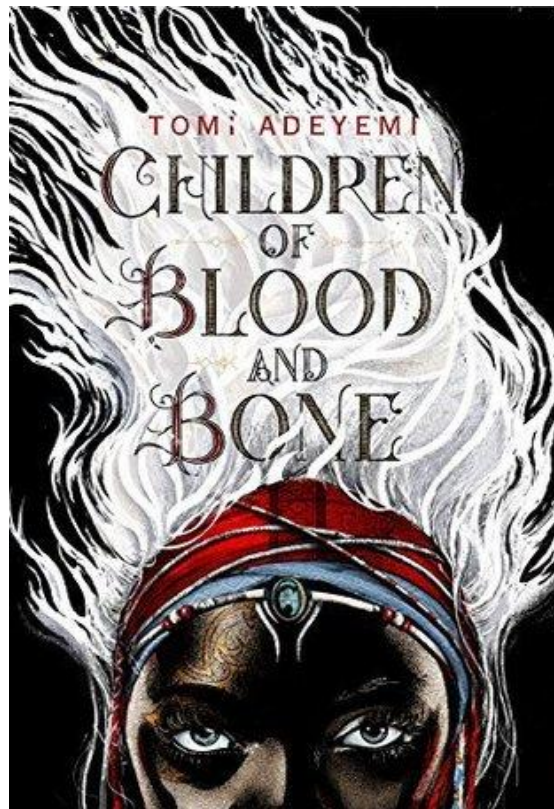


Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi

Children of Blood and Bone is based in Lagos, Nigeria. As a Nigerian myself, I relate to this book a lot. The story is about a girl called Zélie, who is trying to bring magic back to Orïsha, the place where she was born. But everything changed on the night of the Raid, eleven years ago, under the ruthless King Saran, when anyone with powers was targeted and killed. So Zélie and her friends must fight to bring magic back. My favourite character is Zélie, because she keeps fighting, even though she's in pain.

The book made it seem that everyone was a bad guy, so it was hard to like or hate the "good" or "bad" characters in the book. I would recommend this book to teens and adults and fans of romance, comedy, drama and magic. It was challenging and had some words which meant I needed to have a dictionary by my side, and I recommend this book to. I would give the book a 9/10, because it keeps you turning pages, and the author described what was happening very clearly. The reason I took one point off, was because the book was a bit slow to get to the point.

Ayodeji Ediale, Form I



Ready Player One by Ernest Cline

It is the year 2044 and daily life isn't great. The cities are crowded and people want to escape from their realities. The only place that Wade Watts feels he can do this is when he is in the Oasis, which is an online programme of virtual reality. Ready Player One is about Wade and his journey both in the real world and in the Oasis.

Basically, the creator of the Oasis, James Halliday, died but left challenges and the person who completes them will inherit all of his money and the Oasis itself. In the Oasis you can be anyone. You don't have to be the same gender that you are in real life. You don't even have to be human. There aren't any rules. Except for one, never use your real name. Wade's best friend in the story is H but he doesn't know that H is a girl in real life. Wade goes to virtual school and only virtually hangs out with H every day (until they meet in person). Wade's quest is the core of the book. I liked how Cline linked 1980's history to the Oasis and gave a futuristic feel to the book while making some cool references to old books and movies. The book was fantastic and would appeal to readers of all ages. Fans of futuristic and adventure books will really enjoy it. I would give this book a 9/10, the reason it loses a mark is that Ernest Cline killed off my favourite character. (Sorry for the spoiler!).

Rory O'Dowd, Form I



APPEAL FOR SUBMISSIONS

While you guys are bored at home socially distancing please feel free to write or draw something for the next edition of the magazine.

We need your input and ideas! It can be anything from commentary on your local politics to your experiences of social distancing or self isolation to a fantasy land you came up with when whiling away your hours. We look forward to seeing your submissions.

submarinescc@gmail.com



Edna Johnston, Form IV