



# Claremont - Creating Readers

Claremont High School Academy

Issue 9

April 2016

“Books are a uniquely portable magic.”  
— Stephen King,

## Welcome to Claremont – Creating Readers!

I dare say I missed the perfect opportunity in February to promote Romantic Fiction! Personally, I find the association of the whole of February with Valentine’s Day rather a chore and I am not a big fan of kissy-kissy stories with happy-ever-after endings. On the other hand, the Romantic Fiction which includes great works like ‘Wuthering Heights’ really transported me, (and controversially, Bella Swan from ‘Twilight’) as a 17 year-old to the wilds of the Yorkshire moors.

This raises two points; firstly, it is acceptable to not like all books but I strongly urge a person to read some of the book or books before dismissing them. It is always more effective to have an informed argument with evidence.

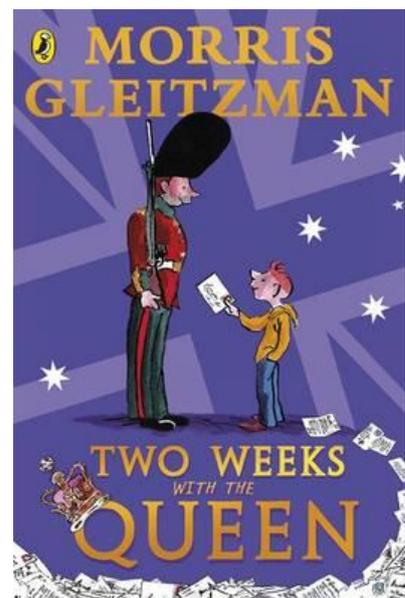
Secondly, books really do have the power (or should I say magical ability) to inspire, comfort, challenge, educate and enlighten – to name but a few of a book’s benefits. Books do not have to be about a world or view we are familiar with; they can take us out of our comfort zone.

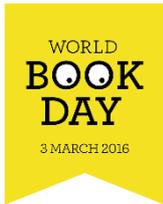
Keep reading!  
Ms Savinkina

*‘I need to see the Queen about my sick brother.’*

12 year old Colin Mudford is on a quest. His brother Luke has cancer and the doctors in Australia don’t seem to be able to cure him. Sent to London to stay with relatives, Colin is desperate to do something to help Luke. He wants to find the best doctor in the world. Where better to start than by going to the top? Colin is determined to ask the Queen for her advice.

In Morris Gleitzman's trademark style, this very moving story illuminates deeply serious issues about *illness and loss* with bright moments of humour.



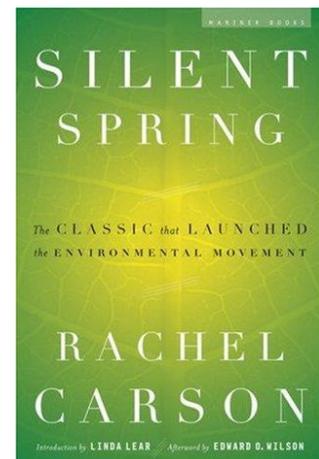


March is the month of World Book Day, and because we are not set rigidly in observing this international event on the actual day, we have the flexibility to make a week of our celebrations with something happening every lunchtime and a special something for our younger students. We were very busy in March!

Ms Sinclair-Webb will be providing an up-date on all that happened independently of this publication. Do keep an eye on the website, especially if you know somebody who dressed up as a book character!

But now that Spring seems to have arrived finally, what about exploring a few thematically inspired reads?

Rachel Carson's 'Silent Spring' was first published in three serialized excerpts in the New Yorker in June of 1962. The book appeared in September of that year and the outcry that followed its publication forced the banning of DDT and spurred revolutionary changes in the laws affecting our air, land, and water. Carson's passionate concern for the future of our planet reverberated powerfully throughout the world, and her eloquent book was instrumental in launching the environmental movement. It is without question one of the landmark books of the twentieth century.



Tokyo, 1912. The closed world of the ancient aristocracy is being breached for the first time by outsiders - rich provincial families, a new and powerful political and social elite.

Kiyoaki has been raised among the elegant Ayakura family - members of the waning aristocracy - but he is not one of them. Coming of age, he is caught up in the tensions between old and new, and his feelings for the exquisite, spirited Satoko, observed from the sidelines by his devoted friend Honda. When Satoko is engaged to a royal prince, Kiyoaki realises the magnitude of his passion.

Recently, apart from some amazing GCSE essays, I finally got round to reading 'The Old Man and the Sea'. To say it is about an old man who goes fishing does not do it justice and, to play with the theme, I was hooked immediately! At less than 100 pages most should be able to manage finding some time for reading on public transport if not at home.

'The Bluest Eye' was very thought-provoking as the plot unfolded from different perspectives to reveal the devastating effects on a young black girl 'caused' by the books most of us use to learn to read. Toni Morrison is perhaps better known across the pond but I will be reading more by her.

If my contributions do not appear often enough for you, the goodreads twitter account constantly inspires me and there is a young adult section or you may prefer to explore <https://www.goodreads.com/choiceawards/best-childrens-books-2015> for younger readers.

