

Gunnersbury School

English Department

Literacy Newsletter

February 2024

Welcome to our monthly reading newsletter. Each month, we will recommend books from a range of genres and styles.

Don't forget to check out our reading lists aimed at specific year groups.

The English Department

Book of the Month

Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde

Robert Louis Stevenson

Robert Louis Stevenson's masterpiece of the duality of good and evil in man's nature sprang from the darkest recesses of his own unconscious—during a nightmare from which his wife awakened him, alerted by his screams. More than a hundred years later, this tale of the mild-mannered Dr. Jekyll and the drug that unleashes his evil, inner persona—the loathsome, twisted Mr. Hyde—has lost none of its ability to shock. Its realistic police-style narrative chillingly relates Jekyll's desperation as Hyde gains control of his soul—and gives voice to our own fears of the violence and evil within us. Written before Freud's naming of the ego and the id, Stevenson's enduring classic demonstrates a remarkable understanding of the personality's inner conflicts—and remains the irresistibly terrifying stuff of our worst nightmares.

Recommended by Ms Badu



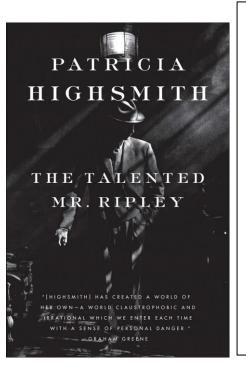
Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde Classics Horror Gothic

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Our Recommendations



The Talented Mr Ripley

Patricia Highsmith

Since his debut in 1955, Tom Ripley has evolved into the ultimate bad boy sociopath, influencing countless novelists and filmmakers. In this first novel, we are introduced to suave, handsome Tom Ripley: a young striver, newly arrived in the heady world of Manhattan in the 1950s. A product of a broken home, branded a "sissy" by his dismissive Aunt Dottie, Ripley becomes enamoured of the moneyed world of his new friend, Dickie Greenleaf. This fondness turns obsessive when Ripley is sent to Italy to bring back his libertine pal but grows enraged by Dickie's ambivalent feelings for Marge, a charming American dilettante.

Recommended by Ms Kaye

The Talented <u>Mr Ripley</u> Mystery Thriller Crime

We love hearing about books you have read so let us know what book you think everyone should read!

