

Gunnersbury Catholic School

English Department

Literacy Newsletter



January 2025

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, which can be found on your child's English Google Classroom page.

The English Department

The Giver Classics Dystopia Science Fiction



Book of the Month

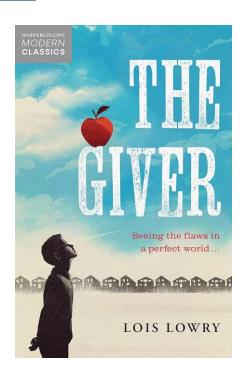
The Giver

Lois Lowry

Lois Lowry's *The Giver* is a compelling dystopian novel that invites readers to question the price of perfection. Set in a meticulously controlled society devoid of pain, fear, and inequality, the story follows Jonas, a twelve-year-old boy chosen to inherit the role of Receiver of Memory. As he trains under the enigmatic Giver, Jonas begins to uncover the community's dark secrets and the emotional depth that has been sacrificed for the illusion of harmony.

Through its poignant exploration of themes like individuality, freedom, and the value of emotions, *The Giver* captivates readers of all ages. This awardwinning novel is a thought-provoking read that challenges us to reflect on what truly makes us human. Highly recommended for fans of speculative fiction and meaningful storytelling.

Recommended for KS3 by Christopher Cadavid Moreno (8N)



All students should have a reading book in school every day.

We recommend reading each weekday evening (and for longer at weekends)

Library Opening Times Year 7:

Lunchtimes: Monday, Wednesday and Friday

Library Opening Times Year 8/9/10

After School: 3:15-4:15pm





Our Recommendations



Dune

Frank Herbert

Frank Herbert's *Dune* is a ground-breaking work of science fiction that blends political intrigue, ecological awareness, and epic storytelling. Set on the desert planet of Arrakis, the novel follows Paul Atreides, a young noble thrust into a world of betrayal, prophecy, and rebellion. Arrakis, the only source of the universe's most valuable resource, "melange" (or spice), becomes the backdrop for a power struggle between noble houses, the enigmatic Fremen, and a sinister empire.

With its richly detailed world-building, complex characters, and exploration of themes like power, religion, and environmental stewardship, Dune remains a timeless masterpiece. A must-read for fans of speculative fiction and those seeking an immersive, thought-provoking tale.

Recommended for KS4 by Dominik Kaim (10B)

<u>Dune</u>
Science Fiction
Fantasy
Classics

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



A student who reads is a student who succeeds!