

April 2022

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

Don't forget to checkout our reading lists aimed at specific year groups. All are available from our website.

The English Department



Darius The Great Is Not Okay

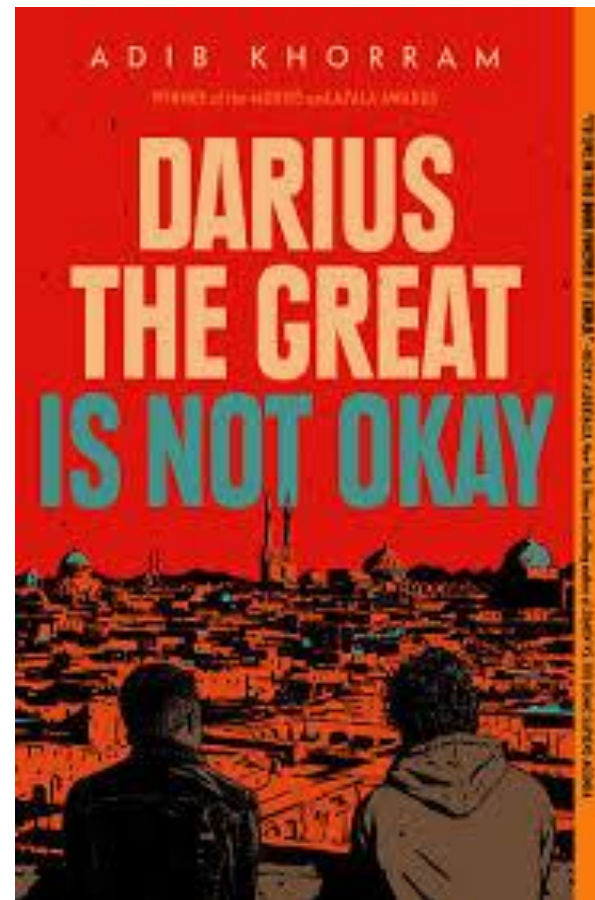
Growing up
Mental Health
Dual Nationality

Darius doesn't think he'll ever be enough, in America or in Iran.

Darius Kellner speaks better Klingon than Farsi, and he knows more about Hobbit social cues than Persian ones. He's about to take his first-ever trip to Iran, and it's pretty overwhelming—especially when he's also dealing with clinical depression, a disapproving dad, and a chronically anemic social life. In Iran, he gets to know his ailing but still formidable grandfather, his loving grandmother, and the rest of his mom's family for the first time. And he meets Sohrab, the boy next door who changes everything.

Sohrab makes sure people speak English so Darius can understand what's going on. He gets Darius an Iranian National Football Team jersey that makes him feel like a True Persian for the first time. And he understands that sometimes, best friends don't have to talk. Darius has never had a true friend before, but now he's spending his days with Sohrab playing soccer, eating rosewater ice cream, and sitting together for hours in their special place, a rooftop overlooking the Yazdi skyline.

Sohrab calls him Darioush—the original Persian version of his name—and Darius has never felt more like himself than he does now that he's Darioush to Sohrab. When it's time to go home to America, he'll have to find a way to be Darioush on his own.

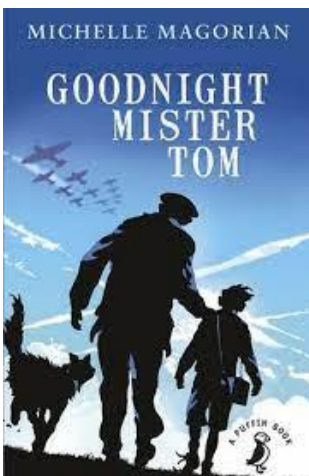


SJH Book Club Recommends

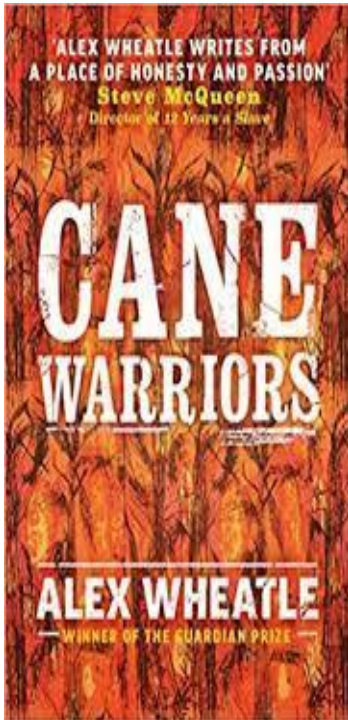
'Powerful and emotional'

A book that deals with loss and love in WW2. It doesn't shy away from how good and bad people can really be in wars.

Join us for the next book talk on Philip Reeve's 'Mortal Engine'.



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Nobody free till everybody free. Moa is fourteen. The only life he has ever known is toiling on the Frontier sugar cane plantation for endless hot days, fearing the vicious whips of the overseers. Then one night he learns of an uprising, led by the charismatic Tacky. Moa is to be a cane warrior, and fight for the freedom of all the enslaved people in the nearby plantations. But before they can escape, Moa and his friend Keverton must face their first great task: to kill their overseer, Misser Donaldson. Time is ticking, and the day of the uprising approaches . . . Irresistible, gripping and unforgettable, Cane Warriors follows the true story of Tacky's War in Jamaica, 1760.



Cane Warriors

Historical

True Story

Racism



'Humans, as is there wont, have a terrible habit of making a mess of everything.'

Mirabelle has always known she is a monster. When the glamour protecting her unusual family from the human world is torn and an orphaned brother and sister stumble upon Rookhaven, Mirabelle soon discovers that friendship can be found in the outside world.

But as something far more sinister comes to threaten them all, it quickly becomes clear that the true monsters aren't necessarily the ones you can see.

A thought-provoking, chilling and beautifully written novel, Pádraig Kenny's *The Monsters of Rookhaven*, stunningly illustrated by Edward Bettison, explores difference and empathy through the eyes of characters you won't want to let go.

'Kenny is a thrilling writer and knows how to chill his readers' *Telegraph*



The Monsters of Rookhaven

Gothic

Fantasy

Series

Our summaries are taken from the Goodreads website:

<https://www.goodreads.com/>

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Stella has always looked forward to changing the world. It's what she was brought up to do, by a suffragette mother who knew all about fighting and rebellion. But it's November 1918. The great flu pandemic sweeping the world has robbed Stella of her mother and her home, and she's alone in a strange country, with an aunt she's never met.

But change is coming – the war is over, and women are about to vote for the first time. History is being made, but how can she help make it? As election day approaches, a day that will transform Ireland forever, Stella realises that she can indeed change the world. Not alone, and not all at once. But just as stars come one by one to brighten the night sky, so history is made person by person, girl by girl.



Star by Star

Historical

Suffragettes

War



In future issues, we would like to include reviews written by students. We will give 5 positive points for published reviews.

The review must be a maximum of 150 words.

Send all reviews to Mr Curtis.



A student who reads is a student who succeeds.