

Q. What should I be reading this Black History Month?

A. Books that inform, educate and inspire!

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2020

I'M NOT ADDICTED TO READING



I CAN QUIT AS SOON AS I FINISH ONE MORE CHAPTER

This month's top pick for KS5:

The Sunday Times Bestseller

Natives

Race & Class in the Ruins of Empire

'Part biography, part polemic, this powerful study picks apart the British myth of meritocracy'
David Olusoga,
Guardian

Akala

Reading just because you love it is the way forward. Don't just think of it as a pleasant memory. Get inspired with us!

"What's going on?"

This is the book I've been waiting for - for years. It's personal, historical, political, and it speaks to where we are now' *Benjamin Zephaniah*
'I recommend *Natives* to everyone' Candice Carty-Williams

From the first time he was stopped and searched as a child, to the day he realised his mum was white, to his first encounters with racist teachers - race and class have shaped Akala's life and outlook. In this unique book he takes his own experiences and widens them out to look at the social, historical and political factors that have left us where we are today.

Covering everything from the police, education and identity to politics, sexual objectification and the far right, *Natives* speaks directly to British denial and squeamishness when it comes to confronting issues of race and class that are at the heart of the legacy of Britain's racialised empire.

Q. What should I be reading?

A. Whatever inspires you!

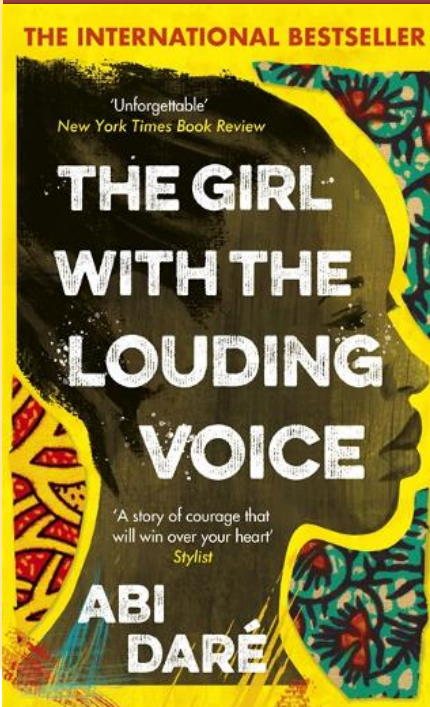
I DISAPPEAR
INTO BOOKS

WHAT'S YOUR
SUPERPOWER?

www.belcastroagency.com

Reading just because you love it is the way forward. Don't just think of it as a pleasant memory. Get inspired with us!

This month's top pick for KS5:



A hard hitting and courageous book. This generation's 'The Color Purple'

"What's going on?"

All you have are your words.

Meet Adunni, a teenage girl born into a rural Nigerian village.

Aged fourteen, she is a commodity, a wife, a servant.

She is also smart, funny, curious, with a spirit and joy infectious to those around her.

And despite her situation going from bad to worse, she has a plan to escape: she will find her 'louding voice' and get her education, so that she can speak up for herself - and all the girls who came before her.

As she turns enemies into friends and superiors into aides, Adunni will take you with her on a heart-breaking but inspiring journey from a small village to the wealthy enclaves of Lagos, and show you that no matter the situation, there is always some joy to be found.

Q. What should I be reading?

A. Whatever inspires you!



This month's top pick for KS5:

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER



WHERE
THE
CRAWDADS
SING

A NOVEL

DELIA OWENS

"Painfully beautiful . . . At once a murder mystery, a coming-of-age narrative, and a celebration of nature." —THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW

A beautiful and poetic book that brings together nature, joy, isolation cruelty and bravery.

"What's going on?"

For years, rumours of the "Marsh Girl" have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. So in late 1969, when handsome Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl. But Kya is not what they say.

But Kya is not what they say. A born naturalist with just one day of school, she takes life's lessons from the land, learning the real ways of the world from the dishonest signals of fireflies. But while she has the skills to live in solitude forever, the time comes when she yearns to be touched and loved. Drawn to two young men from town, who are each intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new and startling world—until the unthinkable happens.

Reading is one of life's joys. Snuggle up somewhere cosy and warm with a lovely book this festive time.

Q. What should I be reading this month?

A. Books that inspire you!

“You know you’ve read a good book when you turn the last page and feel a little as if you have lost a friend.”

- Paul Sweeney

This month's top pick for KS5:



Reading just because you love it is the way forward. Don't just think of it as a pleasant memory. Get inspired with us!

“What's going on?”

When Emira is apprehended at a supermarket for 'kidnapping' the white child she's actually babysitting, it sets off an explosive chain of events.

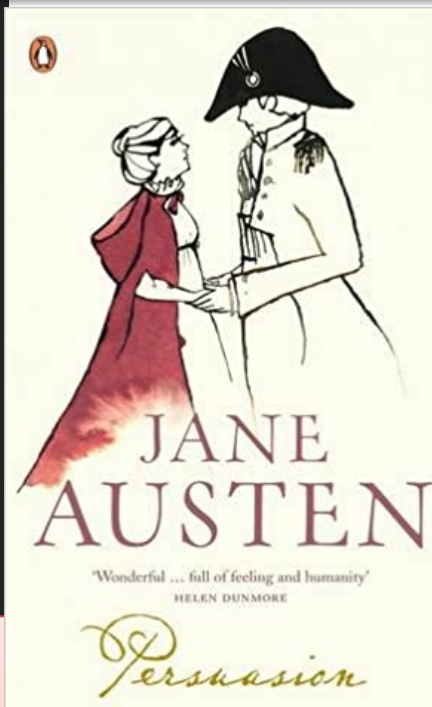
Her employer Alix, a feminist blogger with a 'personal brand' and the best of intentions, resolves to make things right. But Emira herself is aimless, broke and wary of Alix's desire to help.

When she meets someone from Alix's past, the two women find themselves on a crash course that will upend everything they think they know - about themselves, each other, and the messy dynamics of privilege.

Q. What should I be reading this Valentines?

A. Whatever inspires you!

This month's top pick for KS5



One of my all time favourite novels! Will redemption and love conquer all?

"What's going on?"

Twenty-seven-year old Anne Elliot is Austen's most adult heroine. Eight years before the story proper begins, she is happily betrothed to a naval officer, Frederick Wentworth, but she precipitously breaks off the engagement when persuaded by her friend Lady Russell that such a match is unworthy. The breakup produces in Anne a deep and long-lasting regret. When later Wentworth returns from sea a rich and successful captain, he finds Anne's family on the brink of financial ruin and his own sister a tenant in Kellynch Hall, the Elliot estate. All the tension of the novel revolves around one question: Will Anne and Wentworth be reunited in their love?



Nerd Girl Problem #19
You want to go on a romantic date with your boyfriend for Valentine's Day, but he lives in a book

Reading just because you love it is the way forward. Don't just think of it as a pleasant memory. Get inspired with us!

Q. What should I be reading this Valentines?

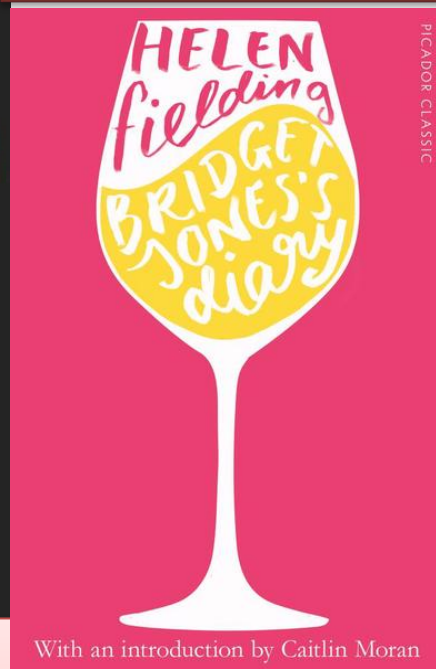
A. Whatever inspires you!



Nerd Girl Problem #19
You want to go on a romantic date with your boyfriend for Valentine's Day, but he lives in a book

Reading just because you love it is the way forward. Don't just think of it as a pleasant memory. Get inspired with us!

This month's top pick for KS5



Amazingly this is now 25 years old! See where it all began (and it is way better than the film!

"What's going on?"

A dazzlingly urban satire on modern relationships?

An ironic, tragic insight into the demise of the nuclear family?

Or the confused ramblings of a pissed thirty-something?

As Bridget documents her struggles through the social minefield of her thirties and tries to weigh up the eternal question (Daniel Cleaver or Mark Darcy?), she turns for support to four indispensable friends: Shazzer, Jude, Tom and a bottle of chardonnay.

This is loosely based on the writer own life, a writer from Morley, Leeds. Why not find out more about the novel and the writer on BBC iPlayer in the documentary 'Being Bridget Jones'?

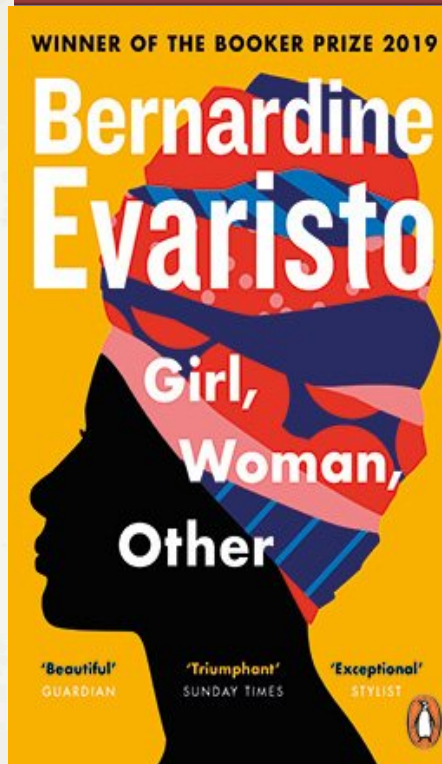
Q. What should I be reading this month?

A. Books that inspire you!

“You know you’ve read a good book when you turn the last page and feel a little as if you have lost a friend.”

- Paul Sweeney

This month's top pick for KS5:



This won the Booker Prize 2019 for many excellent reasons. Find them out for yourself!

“What’s going on?”

Tracking the lives and loves of a dozen British women through generations and social classes, *Girl, Woman, Other* weaves a distinctive, illuminating tapestry of modern British life.

Girl, Woman, Other follows the lives and struggles of twelve very different characters. Mostly women, black and British, they tell the stories of their families, friends and lovers, across the country and through the years.

Joyfully polyphonic and vibrantly contemporary, this is a gloriously new kind of history, a novel of our times: celebratory, ever-dynamic and utterly irresistible.

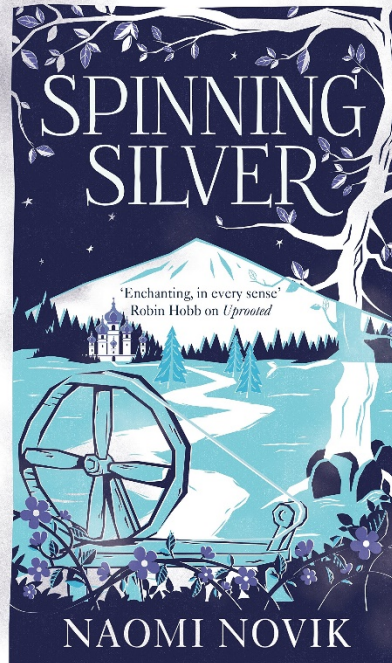
Q. What should I be reading this month?

A. Books that inspire you!

“You know you’ve read a good book when you turn the last page and feel a little as if you have lost a friend.”

- Paul Sweeney

This month's top pick for KS5:



Reading just because you love it is the way forward. Don't just think of it as a pleasant memory. Get inspired with us!

“What's going on?”

Miryem is the daughter and granddaughter of moneylenders, but her father's too kind-hearted to collect his debts. They face poverty, until Miryem hardens her own heart and takes up his work in their village.

Her success creates rumours: she can turn silver into gold. But rumour travels fast, far and wide and soon the whispers reach the silver ear of the fairy king of winter himself. He sets her an impossible challenge. If she fails, she will die. Yet if she triumphs, it may mean a fate worse than death.

In her desperate efforts to succeed, Miryem unwittingly spins a web which draws in Wanda, a poor girl running away from a house of bitter secrets and Irina, the unhappy daughter of a lord who sees only her price and none of her value.

For Irina's father schemes to wed her to the tsar and he will pay any price to achieve this goal. However, the dashing tsar is not what he seems and the secret he hides threatens to consume the lands of mortals and winter alike.

Torn between deadly choices, Miryem, Wanda and Irina embark on a quest that will take them to the limits of sacrifice, power and love.

Q. What should I be reading this month?

A. Books that inspire you!

“You know you’ve read a good book when you turn the last page and feel a little as if you have lost a friend.”

- Paul Sweeney

This month's top pick for KS5:



Genuinely one of my favourite novels—a truly wonderful and haunting tale about human nature and our insecurities and strengths

What is it all about?

Working as a lady's companion, the orphaned heroine of *Rebecca* learns her place. Life begins to look very bleak until, on a trip to the South of France, she meets Maxim de Winter, a handsome widower whose sudden proposal of marriage takes her by surprise. Whisked from glamorous Monte Carlo to his brooding estate, Manderley, on the Cornish Coast, the new Mrs de Winter finds Max a changed man. And the memory of his dead wife Rebecca is forever kept alive by the forbidding Mrs Danvers . . .

'Last night I dreamt I went to Manderley again...'

With these words a reader is swept up into a world of secrets and lies; one of the most passionate, psychologically twisting and complex stories of all-time.

Q. What should I be reading this month?

A. Books that inspire you!

“You know you’ve read a good book when you turn the last page and feel a little as if you have lost a friend.”

- Paul Sweeney

This month's top pick for KS5:

The Midnight Library



A really wonderful, life affirming read that is really hard to put down. Enjoy!

“What’s going on?”

Between life and death there is a library.

When Nora Seed finds herself in the Midnight Library, she has a chance to make things right. Up until now, her life has been full of misery and regret. She feels she has let everyone down, including herself. But things are about to change. The books in the Midnight Library enable Nora to live as if she had done things differently. With the help of an old friend, she can now undo every one of her regrets as she tries to work out her perfect life. But things aren't always what she imagined they'd be, and soon her choices place the library and herself in extreme danger. Before time runs out, she must answer the ultimate question: what is the best way to live?

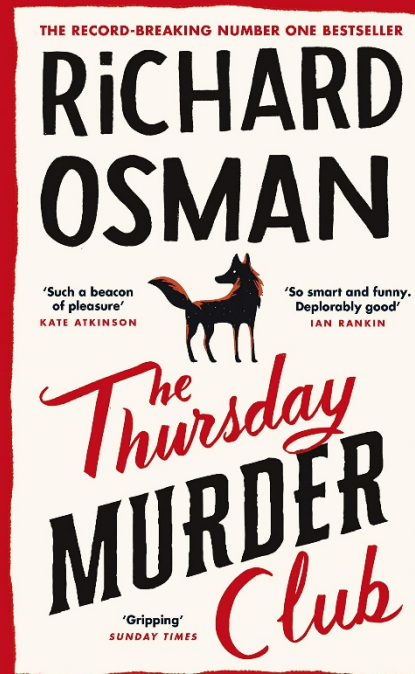
Q. What should I be reading this month?

A. Books that inspire you!

“You know you’ve read a good book when you turn the last page and feel a little as if you have lost a friend.”

- Paul Sweeney

This month's top pick for KS5:



Reading just because you love it is the way forward. Don't just think of it as a pleasant memory. Get inspired with us!

In a peaceful retirement village, four unlikely friends meet up once a week to investigate unsolved murders.

But when a brutal killing takes place on their very doorstep, the Thursday Murder Club find themselves in the middle of their first live case.

Elizabeth, Joyce, Ibrahim and Ron might be pushing eighty but they still have a few tricks up their sleeves.

Can our unorthodox but brilliant gang catch the killer before it's too late?