



Claremont - Creating Readers

Claremont High School Academy

Issue 7

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Whenever you read a good book, somewhere in the world a door opens to allow in more light.

–Vera Nazarian

Welcome to Claremont – Creating Readers!

While many of our older students will be reading text books and revision notes in the build up to December’s examinations, there should always be time for reading for fun. Not everybody seems to realise that and it is incredibly difficult to recreate the necessary atmosphere in the classroom.

Our younger students have timetabled Library slots and many of them come well prepared for the experience. However, too often the teacher has to take the register, check Reading Logs and closely supervise the less enthusiastic readers. Luckily for me, my year 7 class were behaving so beautifully I got so engrossed in my personal reading that I did not check their Reading Logs that day!

Now as a working parent myself, I know how difficult it can be to find time to be ‘caught’ reading by your child, but the benefits to them far outweigh the 20 minute inconvenience to you.

If this is not possible while your child is in the same room as you, try and share a favourite moment or interesting character quirk that shows you are engaging with your reading.

Keep reading!

Ms Savinkina

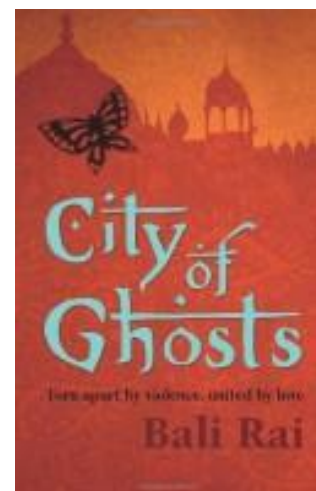
This month’s featured book is a nod to the fact that Diwali and Armistice Day are in November.

‘City of Ghosts’ by Bali Rai

1919, India. Amritsar is a city in ferment. Riots against British rule are increasing and, sooner or later, there will be a showdown.

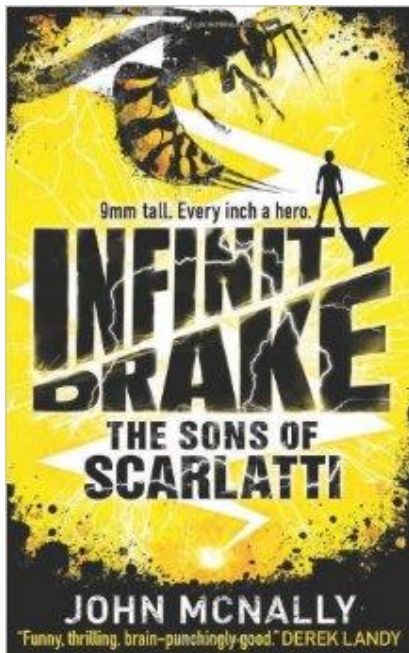
We follow three intertwining stories. Bissen fought for the British in the Great War. Badly wounded in the trenches, he meets pretty English nurse, Lilian, in the army hospital. They fall in love, but is marriage between an English girl and a Sikh possible?

Gurdial, a young orphan, struggles to make a living. He loves Sondi, the daughter of a cruel rich man and an evil step-mother. When he asks Sondi’s father for her hand, he is ordered to bring back the most precious thing in India or die. Can Gurdial fulfil his quest and marry Sondi?



Gurdial's friend, Jeevan, also an orphan, yearns for a proper family where he can belong. He is dangerously susceptible to the brain-washing techniques of the enigmatic Hans Raj, who is determined on killing India's enemies. For Hans Raj, non-violent protesters are enemies as much as the British. But would Jeevan really kill fellow-Indians?

Meanwhile, events move towards the infamous massacre where British troops fired on an unarmed crowd, killing 379 civilians and wounding many more.



Humour and high adventure combine in the biggest action debut in years - even if its characters are very small.

Infinity Drake - aka Finn (at least his mum stopped him being christened $e=mc^2$) - is looking forward to a week away with his mad scientist uncle when they are summoned to a crisis meeting. A lethal bio-weapon has been released by a pitiless villain, with incalculable consequences for mankind...UNLESS Al can shrink a military team to hunt down the beast. No one reckons on Finn getting dragged along - but then disaster strikes. Shrunk to 9mm tall, Finn has to jump in a tiny apache helicopter with two soldiers and a crack female pilot in a race to avert disaster and destroy the Scarlatti - the uber-wasp killing machine that's out there, very angry, and many times their size...(And if you think that's trouble, just wait till Grandma finds out.

Thanks to Darius in year 9. If you or your child would like to suggest a good read then I would be very happy to hear from you or them. I can be contacted on the school's email address.

Did you know? The Federation of Children's Book Groups began in the 1960s, driven by a desire from parents to learn more about children's books, to encourage their children to read and to share passions and knowledge about children's books with like-minded adults in their local areas.

There have been a number of Federation initiatives over the years which have been the catalyst for many national children's book events such as [National Non-Fiction November](#), a month long celebration of non-fiction books for children.

The books are mostly for our younger students and are an excellent starting point for reluctant readers. There is also an excellent 'Teens and Beyond' section which I will be referring to in later issues of "Claremont-Creating Readers".