Books worth second looks Sixth Form - Summer 2022



Yesterday, she had a bookshop. Yesterday, she was married to a journalist. Yesterday, she was with everyone she loved most in the world.

Today, her eight-year-old son is all she has left. For him, she will carry a machete strapped to her leg. For him, she will leap onto the roof of a high speed train. For him, she will find the strength to keep running.

Variously praised to the heavens and damned to hell, *American Dirt* is one of the most debated books of the past few years.

Find out what all the fuss is about, and make up your own mind.

THE WORLDWIDE BESTSELLER ROBERT HARRIS 'Masterful' Sunday Times

IN THE DEADLY GAME OF POWER, ONE MAN WILL RISK IT ALL *Imperium* takes us into the violent world of Roman politics, and the quest of one man to reach the top.

When Tiro, the confidential secretary of a Roman senator, opens the door to a terrified stranger on a cold November morning, he sets in motion a chain of events which will eventually propel his master into one of the most famous courtroom dramas in history.

The stranger is a Sicilian, a victim of the island's corrupt Roman governor, Verres. The senator is Cicero, a brilliant young lawyer and spellbinding orator, determined to attain supreme power - imperium.



In rural Somerset in the middle of a blizzard, the unthinkable happens: a school comes under siege from armed gunmen.

Pupils and teachers barricade themselves into classrooms, the library, the theatre. The headmaster lies wounded, critically injured, unable to help his trapped students and staff.

Outside, the police work desperately to identify the gunmen, while parents gather desperate for news.

In three intense hours, all must find the courage to stand up to evil and save the people they love.



Charles Dickens Great Expectations

OXFORD WORLD'S CLASSICS



'It was now too late and too far to go back, and I went on. And the mists had all solemnly risen now, and the world lay spread before me.'

A terrifying encounter with an escaped convict in a graveyard... A demand to meet the bitter, decaying Miss Havisham and the beautiful, cold-hearted Estella... The sudden generosity of a mysterious benefactor...

A series of strange events are set to change the life of an orphan boy, as he abandons his humble origins to set out on a new life as a "gentleman".

WINNER OF THE BOOKER PRIZE

ff

THE REMAINS OF THE DAY



Stevens is proud of being the perfect English butler, a man who has spent the best part of his working life in service at Darlington Hall. As the years pass, he draws closer to the housekeeper, Miss Kenton but never admits his feelings for her.

Meanwhile, as the Second World War approaches, Lord Darlington's wish to avert catastrophe leads him to become involved with influential politicians sympathetic to the Nazi cause.

KAZUO

WINNER OF THE NOBEL PRIZE IN LITERATURE

Looking back over his life, Stevens increasingly questions his loyalty to his job over his care for his elderly father; over his suppressed feelings for Miss Kenton; and over his judgment in relation to Lord Darlington's treacherous politics.

TIMUR VERMES





"Be warned. This book is funny. Very funny" REBECCA K MORRISON, Independent Berlin, Summer, 2011. Adolf Hitler wakes up on a patch of waste ground, alive and well. Things have changed - no Eva Braun, no Nazi party, no war. He barely recognises his beloved Gemany, filled with immigrants and run by a woman.

People certainly recognise him, but think he's a brilliant impersonator refusing to break character. Then the unthinkable - but also the inevitable happens: the ranting Hitler goes viral, becomes a YouTube star and gets his own TV programme. People begin to listen.

But the Führer has another programme, one with even greater ambition - to set the Fatherland he finds a shambles back to rights... WINNER OF THE ORANGE PRIZE 2012 Sexy, dangerous, mystical' BETTANY HUGHES

"Captivating ... A hard book to put down" DONNA TARTT

MADELINE MILLER

Greece in the age of gods and heroes. Patroclus, an awkward young prince, has been exiled to the court of King Peleus and his perfect son Achilles. Despite their differences, Achilles befriends the shamed prince.

As they grow into young men skilled in the arts of war and medicine, their bond deepens to love much to the displeasure of Achilles's mother Thetis, a cruel sea goddess.

Then comes word that Helen of Sparta has been kidnapped. To fulfill his destiny, Achilles goes to war in distant Troy. Patroclus, torn between fear and love for Achilles, goes with him. The years that follow will test everything they hold dear.



What if Harry Potter joined the Old Bill?

Until recently, Peter Grant was concerned only with avoiding police paperwork and attracting the attentions of WPC Leslie May. Then he tries to take a witness statement from someone who is dead but disturbingly voluble...

Now he finds himself tackling nests of vampires in Purley, digging up graves in Covent Garden and negotiating a truce between the warring god and goddess of the Thames. Oh, and he's become the first trainee wizard for fifty years...

So when a vengeful spirit starts wreaking havoc, it's down to Peter to save the day, or die trying.



'I burned down the town of Trebon. I have spent the night with Felurian and left with both my sanity and my life. I was expelled from the University at a younger age than most people are allowed in. I tread paths by moonlight that others fear to speak of during day. I have talked to Gods, loved women, and written songs that make the minstrels weep.

My name is Kvothe. You may have heard of me'

So begins the tale of Kvothe, from his childhood in a troupe of traveling players, through his years spent as a near-feral orphan in a crime-riddled city, to his daringly brazen yet successful bid to enter a difficult and dangerous school of magic.

Elliot Perlman

The street sweeper

Excellent... Harrowing, humane and brilliant — THE TIMES (US) Wonderfully rich, engaging and multiloyered — THE WASHINGTON POST



An unlikely friendship, between a hospital janitor, just out of prison, and an elderly Jewish Holocaust survivor who starts to talk about his extraordinary past.

A personal crisis: the son of a prominent Jewish civil rights lawyer, is facing the end of both his long-term relationship and his academic career. Then one of his late father's closest friends suggests a promising research topic that offers the possibility of redemption.

Spanning over fifty years, and ranging from New York to Melbourne, Chicago, Warsaw and Auschwitz, these two very different paths lead to one much greater story.