

TY TIMES

DCC Journalism Newsletter Special



FEATURED ARTICLES

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Education Matters, Especially Now

By Peter Oliver and Eoghan O'Dea

In society we are all having to follow many rules in our lives but in school these measures are constant.

Donabate Community College reopened this September after 173 days away from the classroom. For students, this new school year is challenging. As students, we are experiencing a transition year like no other. For exam year students, much uncertainty remains regarding school closures and the actual running of exams.

This is a difficult and stressful time for everyone. But there is hope because in this time of greatest peril, the best of humanity has come forth. We stay together by staying apart. Every individual does his part to protect those around them. Imagine what could be done if we apply this to other issues in this newsletter. We could prevent climate change, end world poverty and improve everybody's mental health.

The virus is strong but together we are stronger.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, there has been uncertainty surrounding the virus. Misinformation puts people at risk from the virus. We hear of online scams and people who lost their pensions and savings because scammers preyed on their fear.

Now more than ever good journalism matters so we can all come together and solve the tough problems. The truth matters.

Our message here at DCC is one of hope. We hope this newsletter which was founded this year will run for a long time. We aim to tell you accurately and in an unbiased manner about the issues that matter in our modern world. We want to make sure that our students are well informed about COVID-19 and the measures in our school. We aim to report on what matters because good journalism matters.

We hope you enjoy this first edition.



*Edited By Diarmuid Whitehead,
Sophie Porter and Nicole Murray*

THE LEAVING CERT PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE AS TOLD BY STUDENTS.

By Ronan Doyle

On the 8th of May 2020 the Leaving Cert—for the first time since its conception—was cancelled and replaced instead with two options for students: Calculated Grades or the option to sit the exams in November.

The controversy that followed this decision has been widely covered. From college places abroad, school profiling and, in the end, the downgrading of students in multiple subjects, it seems that everyone has been able to publicly give their two cents on the issue. Apart from students. Students were left to social media to express their opinions while parents, school principals, and people completely separated from the issue were given all the air time. However, in recent weeks controversy has died down. So with the benefit of hindsight, how do the students feel now that all is said and done?

I spoke to a Leaving Certificate candidate from the Class of 2020 for their thoughts on how fair the decision was, their response was that “the decision was fair” and that it “was the only viable given the circumstances”. They also said the idea of sitting the exams in November meant “there simply would not be enough time for the exams to be corrected and CAO offers to be announced in time for the new college year”.



Hell was raised (mostly by parents) about certain students being unfairly disadvantaged, but do students think that? “I simply do not believe this to be the case”, they reported, that some people who did not put in the work had “expected a miracle to happen come exam day”. They felt that “unbiased teacher marking” and “the government not lowering the marks of schools who usually don't perform well” created fairness. They also said that although certain students may have received higher points than they deserved, the students who did deserve the high points received them and “I believe that is a positive trade-off”.

I then asked did they think that this past year has highlighted issues within the educational system. “I absolutely think that this scenario has highlighted major issues with the Leaving Cert”, and they went on to suggest that the Leaving Cert should be continually assessed (in a similar way to the new Junior Cycle) as this “prevents one big exam at the end of the year” and “demands a high level of participation from every student at every point throughout the two years”. They believe that this “prevents cramming” and is a “more intense and productive style of learning”, they also believe that “It also represents the world of work better than the current system does”.



Another question still left is what will happen to the Leaving Cert students of 2021. With a vaccine arriving at the earliest mid-2021 (according to the Taoiseach who referenced W.H.O.) there's a good chance that next year's Leaving Cert will face changes. So how have the results of this year's Leaving Cert affected this year's students' outlook on their Leaving Cert? To get a real insight, I also spoke to a student from the Class of 2021.

A big concern for the student (and others like them online) is the amount of time they missed: "...I prefer personally to get calculated grades because we missed three months of fifth year and like the sixth years last year for those three months... would more or less be revising".

After seeing what happened to these years Leaving Cert students is a new system needed if the Leaving Cert 2021 doesn't go ahead?: "So far the changes to the Leaving Cert with more options is kinda good but I don't think it's enough... they kinda messed it up this year so hopefully it'll be better for next year... All and all I think calculated grading is a good idea even if we could have like in America or England where you can have a continuous assessment or that kind of thing".



Having seen the outcome to this year's Leaving Cert added more pressure to the current sixth years? This student thought so: "A little bit", they gave an anecdote of a friend they have who did their Leaving Cert last year who is deferring until 2021. They said they felt stressed as this friend (and others like them) got high points and that competing against them when sitting an actual exam would be stressful.

Is continuous assessment the best option? The student said that yes it would be but that "teacher input should be important". One question that each interview shared was Do you think the Leaving Cert will see a reform in the next few years? They both expressed hope that the Leaving Cert would change with both of them saying that a continuous assessment system would be better than the current system. They shared similar views as to why (cramming, stressful, unproductive, etc). The student from the Class of 2020 provided a temporary solution saying that "Perhaps a suitable short-term fix would be to introduce more flexible exam timing, rather than have a set exam date have a window between May and August where students can expect to sit their exams in May however if anything prevents them in may they are expected to continue to study as the exam will be rescheduled within the window".

From the two interviews it seems that the students believe that the Leaving Cert decision—albeit poorly executed—was the fairest option at the time. However, it also seems there may be calls for the Leaving Cert to face a reform in the near future.

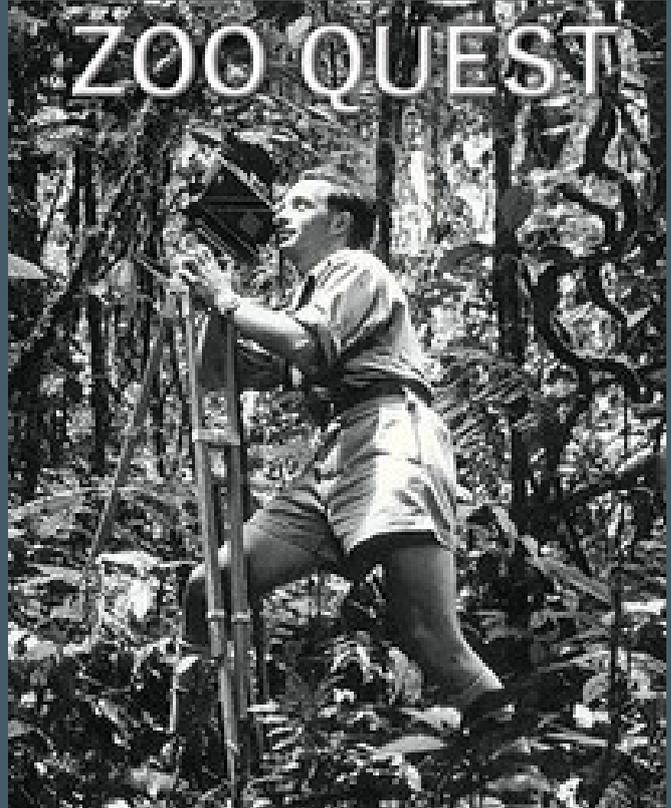
THE LIFE OF DAVID ATTENBOROUGH

By Emma Carroll

Sir David Frederick Attenborough is an English naturalist and broadcaster. He is known as the “father of modern nature documentaries”. He is best known for creating and presenting the nine nature documentaries that form the ‘Life’ series. He is also considered a national treasure of the United Kingdom by figures such as the Duke of Cambridge.

David Attenborough was born on the 8th of May, 1926 in London. He grew up in the city of Leicester with his two brothers, Richard and John. His father Fredrick was the principal of University College Leicester. He became interested in natural history when he was young and he enjoyed collecting fossils and stones.

He studied Geology and Zoology at Clare College, Cambridge and he graduated with a degree in Natural Sciences in 1947. He then served in the Royal Navy for 2 years where he was stationed in North Wales and Firth of Forth.



In 1952, he joined the BBC and became a television producer. In 1954, he created ‘Zoo Quest’, together with Zack Lester. ‘Zoo Quest’ was a programme that filmed live animals in the wild and in zoos. It became a huge success and widened the range of the BBC’s educational programming. In 1965, he became the director of the BBC’s new second channel, BBC-2.

From 1968 to 1972, Attenborough was the director of the BBC’s television programming, but he resigned to become a freelance writer and producer.



He then wrote and narrated many of his award winning nature documentaries, such as the 'Life' series. The 'Life' series includes 9 documentaries: 'Life on Earth' (1979), 'The Living Planet' (1985), 'The Trials of Life' (1990), 'Life in the Freezer' (1993), 'The Private Life of Plants' (1995), 'The Life of Birds' (1998), 'The Life of Mammals' (2002-3), 'Life in the Undergrowth' (2005) and 'Life in Cold Blood' (2008).

During his long career, Attenborough has received many awards for his work. He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth in 1985 and has been nominated for seven Emmy awards and twenty one BAFTAs.

Image credit: <https://www.carbonbrief.org>



He has also written many books, such as 'Adventures of a Young Naturalist: The Zoo Quest Expeditions' (2017) and 'A Life on Our Planet: My Witness Statement and a Vision for the Future' (2020).

His newest documentary, 'David Attenborough: A Life on Our Planet' was released on Netflix on the 4th of October. He calls it his "witness statement" for the environment. Throughout the documentary, he traces his long career and discusses how climate change has degenerated the Earth throughout his life.

He has previously called climate change "our greatest threat in thousands of years" and 'A Life on Our Planet' definitely proves this, showing us that we should work together to save our planet from the danger of climate change. Watch it now on Netflix, you will not be disappointed!



FACE MASKS

By Adam Mullen

A face covering is a material you wear that covers the nose and mouth. It helps to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the community. They are made from cloth materials such as cotton or silk. You can make them at home reusing items such as scarfs, t-shirts, towels or sweatshirts. Visors are clear face shields that are usually made from plastic but are less effective than face masks. They usually wrap around the top of your head.

The COVID-19 crisis has seen more dumping, more socialising and drinking in unsanctioned areas. Unfortunately, owing to restrictions, there has been less cleaning by local authorities and less activity by volunteers such as Tidy Towns. PPE is now littered across the country, with masks five times as common as gloves.

The Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) released a survey on 40 towns and cities that were inspected by An Taisce. The information shows that Personal Protective Equipment was not being disposed of properly. Out of the 40 towns, 23 towns were deemed to be "clean" which is 20% less than last year. This is the lowest since 2007. No area was branded a "litter black spot", but Dublin north inner city was seriously littered as well as Galvone in Limerick city.

Of 61 sites that were described as either heavily littered or blackspots in 2019, fewer than 40% were clean in this survey.

This all leads to one massive reminder to the students of Donabate Community College; dispose of your own litter correctly especially PPE equipment! Ensure you are using the many bins around the school and bring home your own rubbish.



You should wear a face covering in places like:

- Shops and shopping centres.
- Libraries
- Restaurants and bars.
- Schools and workplaces.
- Cinemas and cinema complexes.
- Concert halls, museums & theatres.
- Nail & Hair salons and barbers.
- Tattoo and piercing parlours.

You are able to remove your face covering when:

- Talking to a person who has difficulties communicating .
 - Taking medication.
 - Provide emergency helps or care to vulnerable people.
 - To verify your age or identity.
 - At post offices, banks and credit unions.
 - Eating and drinking in restaurants or cafés.
 - Getting medical or dental treatment.
 - When in an outdoor setting.
 - Whilst in your own home.
-

NOW MORE THAN EVER READING IS IMPORTANT

By Peter Oliver

Now more than ever Reading is Important. "The more that you read, the more things you will know, the more that you learn, the more places you'll go" - Dr. Seuss

We are often told of the wonders of reading and it is hard for parents to explain its importance to the Kindle generation. Most would rather spend hours shooting zombies on their PS4 or pretending to be Messi on their Xbox. But reading offers something that video games cannot.

When a child reads it opens a whole new opportunity to learn. Books teach people about things you don't learn in school and parents may wish to avoid. Books will tell you the real truths of humanity. Of how beautiful and harsh this world can be. Of how humans can be both good and evil.

There is a feeling when reading a good book that cannot be replicated. When you truly care about a character you are absorbed in the story and you will be unable to put it down as you would anything else.

Ireland has a great tradition of readers and writers from James Joyce to modern authors like Derek Landy. We have always been attracted to the story and have been telling them for thousands of years. All of this is down to one simple fact: reading or listening to a good story around the fire on a winter night is simply the best feeling in the world.

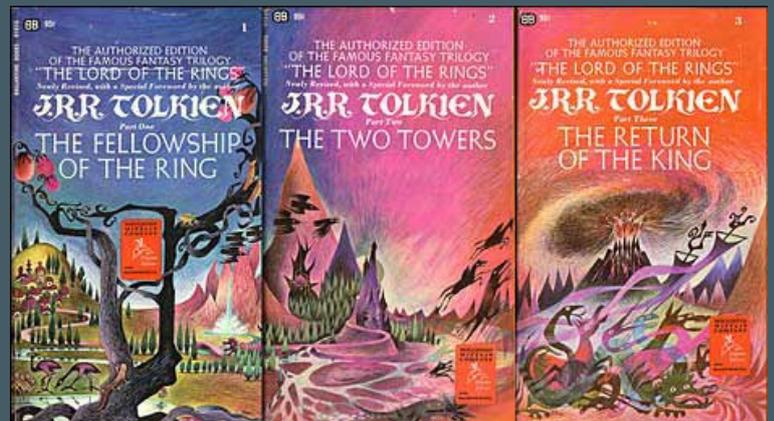
Children who read understand how the world works, their imagination and creativity excels. These innovative people are the entrepreneurs, the artists and the writers. The simple fact is that the world needs books and more importantly for people to read them.

So for this reason, I thought I would help our community return to reading this winter by compiling a list of the top 10 books you must read in your lifetime. I have composed two lists. One list for Seniors and another list for Juniors.

5 Books Students at Junior Cycle Should Read:

The Lord of the Rings

Undoubtedly one of the finest novels of all time, the trilogy originally written as one book is a masterpiece. Tolkien creates a fantasy novel like no other, we know the people of Middle Earth like we know the human race. Tolkien has everything from ancestors to language in his books. This tale would be too complex and boring with all these facts if not for Tolkien's genius.

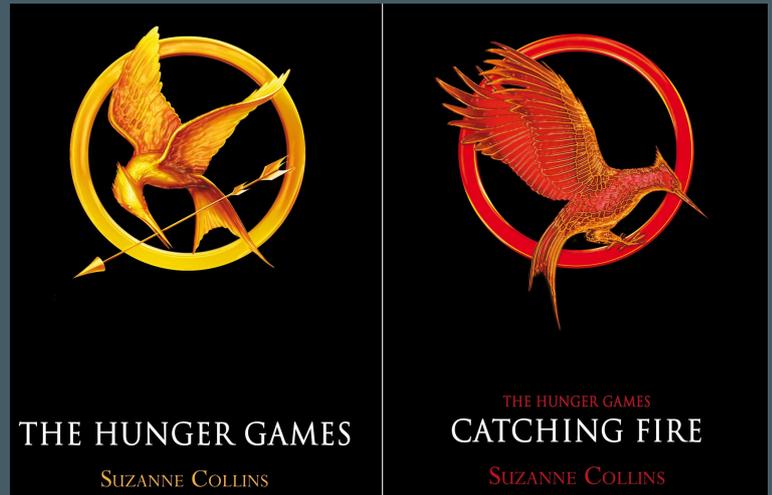
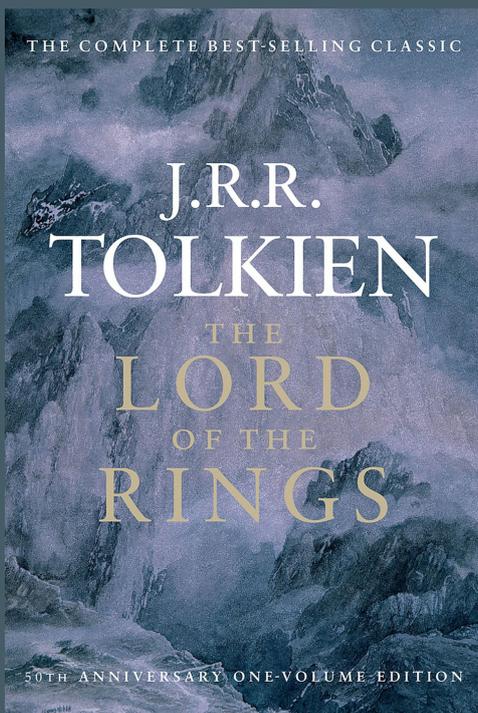


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He writes the books rather like a history but still the characters are dead strong. You are with them every step of the way from The Shire to Mordor and Mount Doom. It is hard to not feel patriotic about a fictional Middle Earth when every step of the great journey that is 'The Lord of the Rings' is an adventure.

Tolkien deals with massive themes flawlessly such as feminism, hope, honour, immortality and fate. Tolkien's emphatic poetic language glorifies his epic tale. It is a story about how the smallest person can change the world and it is one of the greatest novels of all time.

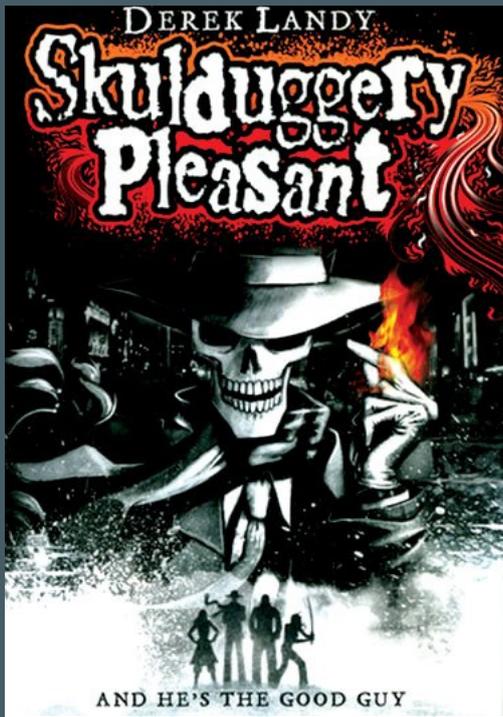
Style: 10/10
Pace: 8/10
Plot: 10/10
Character: 10/10
Total: 38/40



The Hunger Games

Panem is all that's left of the world, divided into 12 districts and a Capital. When the districts revolted, the rebellion was crushed and as payment for the uprising a boy and a girl from each district must fight to the death in an arena for the entertainment of the Capital. The Hunger Games is a mighty novel which shows tyranny and inequality in a world not too different from our own. In her books, Collins shows how a single person with the smallest spark can ignite the fire of rebellion once more. Never has there been a book to capture this so vividly. The characters are amazing and the Hunger Games deals with so many themes such as family, love, discrimination, guilt and of course the cycle of tyranny. These themes are important in our own world, hopefully by understanding the tyrant we can prevent the tyrant in the future. The films don't do justice to this masterpiece so I would encourage everyone to read this book if they enjoyed the films or not. This is a truly thrilling series that deserves to be read. One of the finest trilogies of all time.

Style: 7/10
Pace: 10/10
Plot: 10/10
Character: 9/10
Total: 36/40



Skulduggery Pleasant

While a 12 book series may be too much for some people, Skulduggery Pleasant will not disappoint the dedicated reader. While in my view the first nine stand alone better, the other three are well worth reading. Landy is the master of sarcastic humour and his unique style of fast paced action with quite a lot of humour sometimes is a truly enjoyable read.

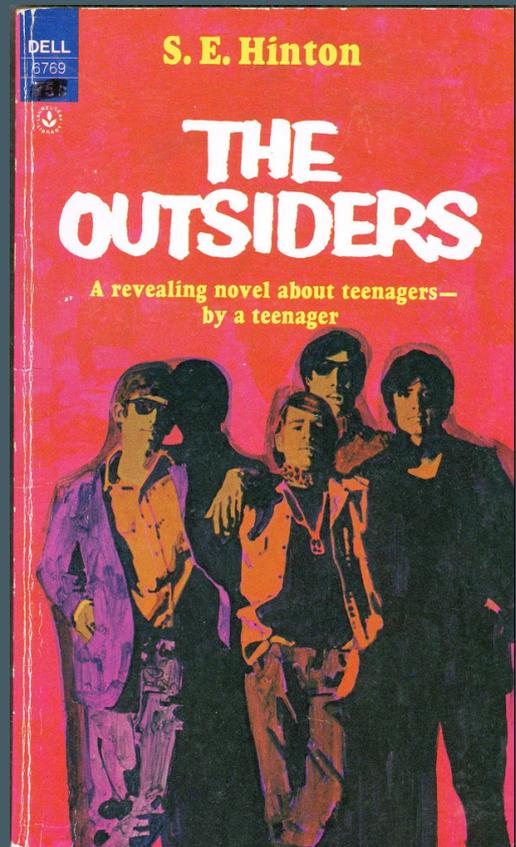
His character Skulduggery Pleasant is amazing but the normal girl Stephanie Edgledy who becomes the sorcerer Valkyrie Cain is an amazing protagonist because she is down to earth and genuine. Landy's book opened up a new area in the young adult genre, he combines horror, with an action thriller but has comedy thrown in. You won't find poetic language here but simple entertaining plot and characters that will make this series unputdownable.

Style: 5/10
Pace: 10/10
Plot: 10/10
Character: 10/10
Total: 35/40

The Outsiders

The Outsiders was the book that defined the young adult genre through the eyes of a young boy Ponyboy. He's a greaser who leaves on the West side of town with his brothers and they don't have much. They are often at war with the Soc's, the East Side rich kids. Ponyboy is for the most part innocent but like his brothers he's a "tuff" greaser but later on in the novel he realises that the Socs are people just like the greasers and that violence is meaningless and will achieve nothing. But when Ponyboy's friend Johnny stabs a Soc in self defence they are forced to go on the run. Things go from bad to worse in this amazing debut novel by S.E. Hinton. One of the first ever to be written for the Young Adult genre. A true masterpiece of childhood innocence in a harsh unforgiving world.

Style: 10/10
Pace: 10/10
Plot: 9/10
Character: 10/10
Total: 39/40



Of Mice and Men

'Of Mice and Men' is a wonderful tale of friendship between two field hands during the Great Depression of 1930s America. George and his large simple-minded friend Lennie share a dream that they will one day own their own plot of land. But when the two men find work on a ranch in California their friendship will be tested to the limit. This novella is an extraordinarily simple tale of friendship and yet it delves into complex themes of racism and the falsehood of the American Dream. It even gives the reader a vivid view of life during the Great Depression and the harsh conditions faced by many. A tale of the ups and downs of friendship and how friends will always stick by each other. A gripping read.

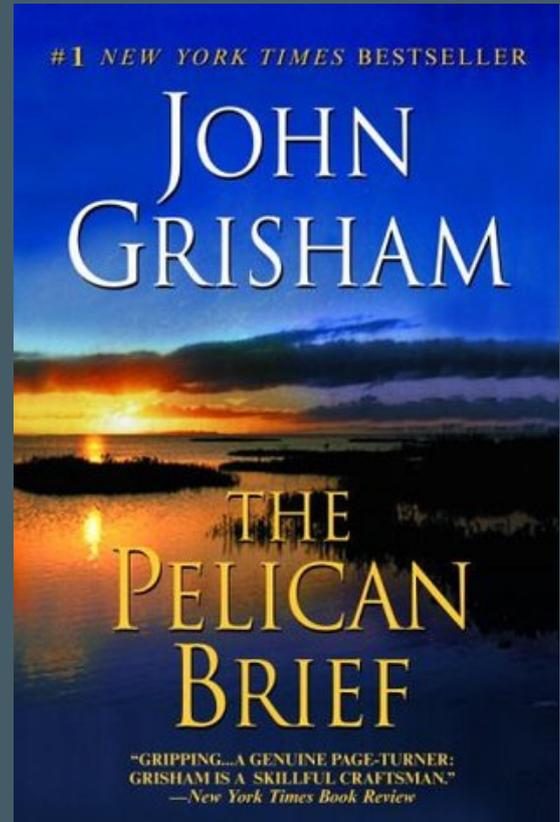
Style: 10/10

Pace: 10/10

Plot: 10/10

Character: 10/10

Total: 40/40



5 Books Students at Senior Cycle Should Read:

The Pelican Brief

John Grisham has been making law thriller's for a long time but he is undoubtedly the king of the field. The Pelican Brief is widely considered his best work and for good reason. A young student writes an investigative brief which threatens a large conspiracy. Now a lot of people want her dead and for the brief to disappear. This fascinating legal thriller is a dangerous game of cat and mouse.

Style: 8/10

Pace: 10/10

Plot: 10/10

Character: 7/10

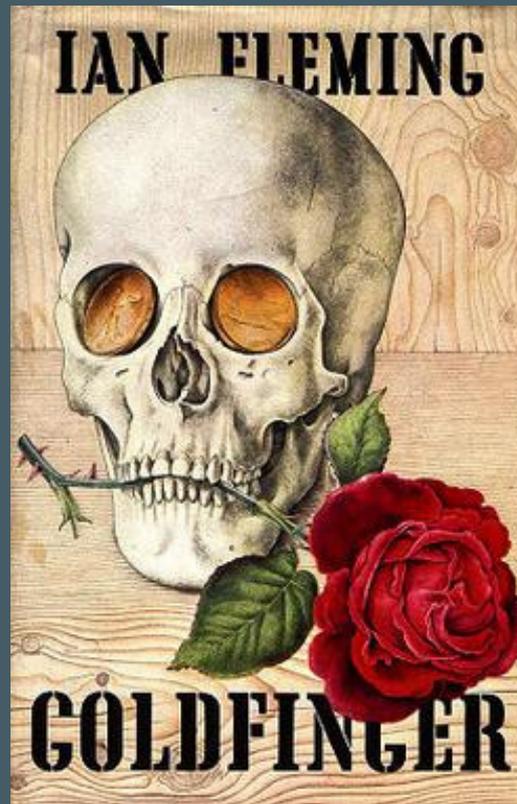
Total: 35/40



Goldfinger

My favourite of Ian Fleming's original Bond novels, this fast paced, exciting thriller is a classic Bond and surely one of the works that best defines the shadow figure of 007. Ian Fleming shows his style with the amazing character of James Bond who struggles against the mighty Goldfinger. While all of Fleming's Bond novels are brilliant, Goldfinger stands out as the best because of it's brilliant cunning villain and it's genre defining Bond. Fans of the film must read this book because it does a lot more than just surpass the film, it creates a truly unforgettable novel.

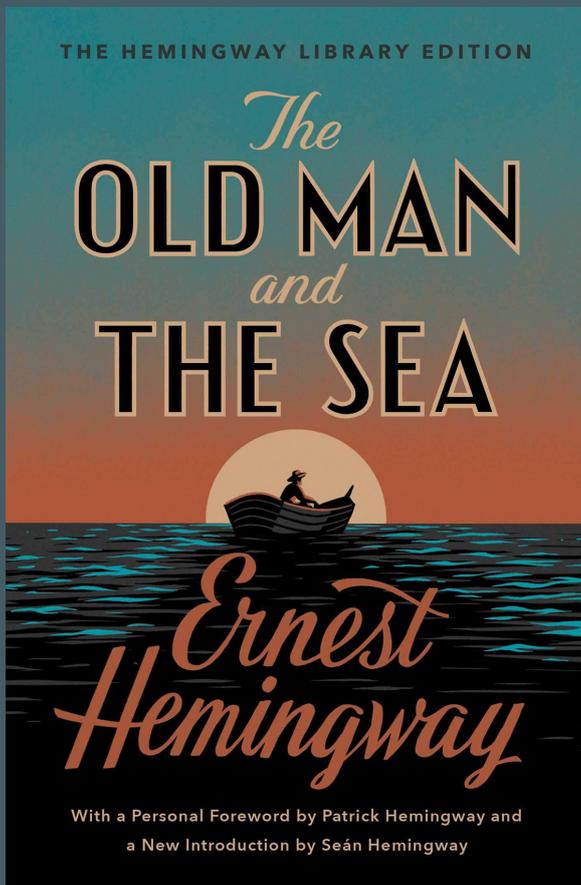
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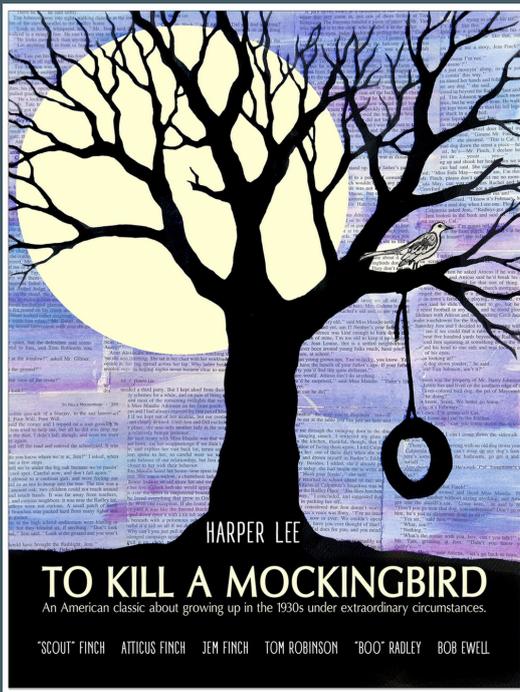


The Old Man and the Sea

A novella that brings story-telling back to basics. Perhaps Ernest Hemingway's finest work 'The Old Man and The Sea' peels back all the bad things about the modern story until all that remains is pure humanity. This tale tells of an old man who hasn't caught a fish for many days, then going out on his skiff, his line catches a massive fish. For days he tries to kill it and struggles with the mighty fish and his own hunger. Basic human emotion drives this tale, Hemingway master of the simple plot displays his genius yet again.

Style: 10/10
Pace: 8/10
Plot: 10/10
Character: 10/10
Total: 38/40





To Kill a Mockingbird

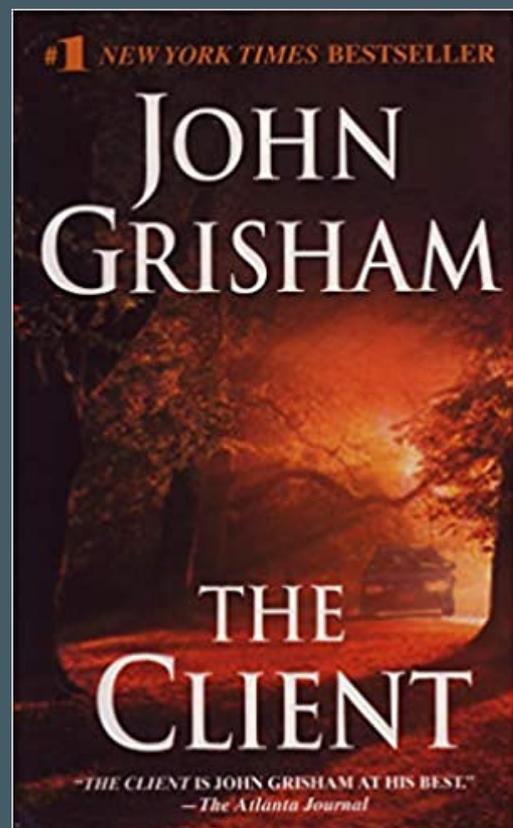
'To Kill A Mockingbird' by Harper Lee is a book that needed to be written. A black man is charged with the rape of a white girl and it's simply his word against hers. This trial which wouldn't have happened to a white man and black girl is a testament to the state of Southern America. Viewed through the eyes of an innocent child a new perspective is put on our world and the darker parts of it. Tells of the struggle of blacks in the south and how an innocent child views racism. This book was written in the 1960s a different America but still today the same racism exists. Hopefully the innocent children of today can read this book will become the leaders of tomorrow and know that all men and women are created equal.

The Client

A young child witnesses a suicide in the woods but his witness of the lawyer's final words plunges him into the dangerous world of the mob and the FBI. An innocent child is in danger as he holds the key to putting away Barry "the blade" Muldano. Mark Sway is a wonderful protagonist; his innocence and his independence contributes a lighter side to the novel as he struggles to survive in a world of adults. However, Reggie Love, the low time attorney who takes him in and protects him against all odds when no one else could is an amazing character. Her deeply emotional past drives her forward and she shows generosity and kindness in the face of steep opposition. A fantastic tale of a young boy who took on the FBI and the mob at the same time.

Style: 8/10
Pace: 9/10
Plot: 10/10
Character: 8/10
Total: 35/40

Style: 10/10
Pace: 6/10
Plot: 10/10
Character: 10/10
Total: 36/40



MOUTH WATERING CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

By Ella McCourt and Maidie Mason

So after all that drama, it's time for something fun, yummy and easy to bake. This delicious recipe will make 12 cookies. To make them you will need the following;

Ingredients;

- Flour (155g all purpose flour)
- ½ cup of sugar
- ¾ cup of brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon of salt
- ½ cup of melted butter
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract
- ½ teaspoon of baking soda
- 110g of chocolate chips



STEP BY STEP

1. Grab one large bowl and mix together the salt, both sugars and butter until all lumps are gone and it looks like a paste.
 2. Crack the egg into the bowl and add your vanilla extract and mix.
 3. Use a sieve to pour the flour and baking soda into the bowl and mix.
 4. Add your chips, and you guessed it, mix it again.
 5. Let it chill for 20 minutes before finally placing them on your tray.
 6. Set your oven to 180°C and bake for 10-15 minutes.
 7. Let them chill
 8. We recommend eating them with a nice, refreshing glass of cold milk
-

TIKTOK SAVED FROM U.S. BAN BY COURT TEMPORARILY

By Luke Brehony

TikTok is a popular social media app among teens. It's utterly fascinating to young people around the world. It allows users to dance or act along to a set of audio for a limited amount of time. This simple formula has produced many funny, interesting, and creative clips that are beloved worldwide. As much as Reddit hates it, TikTok is an interesting app that allows its users to express themselves in a lot of ways.

The only downside to this app is that it's run by ByteDance, a Chinese company that adamantly collects its users data. Data that is collected includes the user's location, what videos are watched and commented on, the phone model and operating system used, and what keystroke rhythms the person uses when they type.

This information evoked President Trump to attempt to ban the app, fearing that it could be Chinese spyware and propaganda.



The Bill to ban TikTok passed but it was just barely saved from a complete nationwide ban in America, TikTok was granted a last-minute reprieve from Donald Trump's executive order banning the app from US app stores after a judge temporarily blocked the ban from taking place.

The order which would have kick-started at midnight would have begun the cascade, ending TikTok's complete ban in the US. The order would have forced Apple and Google to remove the service from their own App Stores, preventing new users from downloading it but the app would not have stopped existing on existing TikTok users' phones.

Instead the US District judge Carl Nichols allowed a Preliminary injunction, time for the judge to make a final decision. This decision was sought by Tiktok's owner, ByteDance, to allow the app to remain in US AppStores.

Nichols declines "at this time" to block a second set of restrictions requested by the US Department of Commerce, due to take effect on November 12th, which will bar any American company from providing services to Tiktok. That order would have made the app impossible to use in the US, Tiktok has said, effectively banning it entirely.



However, with the use of a VPN, users in the US can access and download Tiktok, but this depends on how the ban is enforced. If the app is made illegal in the country, official app stores will be forced to remove it and it will get much harder to download. But If Tiktok is not made illegal, VPNs could be the silver bullet to this issue for Tiktok users.

The future for Tiktok's American presence is up in the air currently. But the Judge will make the final decision. Either way it's going to change the perceptions for a lot of young people.

BLACK LIVES MATTER

By Maidie Mason and Ella McCourt

The Black Lives Matter Movement was founded in July 2013 by Alicia Garza, Opal Tometi and Patrisse Cullors. Black Lives Matter is a social movement that stands for 'Non-violent civil disobedience in protest against incidents of police brutality and all racially motivated violence against black people'. As you have seen, Black Lives Matter has been trending all over the world after the murder of George Floyd.

'I can't breathe' - George Floyd

George Floyd was a 46-year-old African American man who was killed during an arrest in May 2020. Floyd's name became infamous after a video of white police officer, Derek Chauvin, kneeling on Floyd's neck for 8 minutes and 46 seconds went viral online. In the footage, recorded by a bystander, Floyd repeatedly told the officer that he could not breathe. The footage sparked outrage all over the world which led to an F.B.I. civil rights investigation and the firing and arrest of the officer, Derek Chauvin. The Minneapolis Police Department also fired three officers who were with Mr. Chauvin at the scene. In June, Chauvin, 44, was charged with second-degree manslaughter and second-degree murder. The other fired officers, Thomas Lane, Tou Thao and J. Alexander Kueng, faced aiding and abetting charges. The chokehold that Chauvin had Floyd in has now been banned in over 20 cities. As of October 7th, Derek Chauvin has been released from prison on \$1m (848,000 euro) bail.



What Happened To Breonna Taylor?

Breonna Taylor was shot dead on March 13th this year. Police had a 'No-knock' warrant for the suspicion of drugs in Ms. Taylor's apartment. Breonna and her boyfriend (Kenneth Walker) were in bed when police forced their way into the apartment shortly after midnight.



Mr Walker called 911 thinking that they were being robbed. Walker fired a warning shot which wounded one of the officers. Sgt. Mattingly returned fire shooting six bullets at Walker and at Taylor who was standing behind him in the hallway. Brett Hankison fired 10 rounds blindly in 'violation of a department policy that requires officers to have a line of sight'. Hankison was shooting at a sliding glass door which had the blinds pulled down. He could not see where, who or what he was shooting. There were a total of 32 bullets shot that night.

The lawsuit said ' the officers were not looking for her or her partner, but for an unrelated suspect who did not live in the complex'. No drugs were found in Breonna Taylor's apartment. Brett Hankison was charged with three counts of "wanton endangerment" for firing into the neighbour's apartment.

No charges were filed against the other two officers who fired the remaining shots, and no one was charged for Breonna Taylor's killing.



BLM Protests - Ireland

Since George Floyd's death, hundreds of BLM protests have been held all over the world, including Ireland. These protests are taking place in solidarity with the millions of Americans protesting against racism and police brutality. Thousands of Irish people gathered in Dublin multiple times this year alone to show their support.

THE FUTURE OF SPORTS IN DONABATE

By Graeme Gilchrist, Daniel English, Andrew O'Sullivan and James Weller

Sports have played an integral role in the making of the tight knit community in Donabate with some of the first clubs forming way back in 1925. St Ita's Football Club and Donabate Golf Club share the same opening year tying them as two of the oldest clubs in Donabate. Although, today we are not talking about the past, we're talking about what the future holds for sport in the Donabate area. We will be talking about the new development ideas, the new clubs and facilities opening up and how this will affect our community as a whole.

In the last few years many different sports clubs in the area have excelled and grown massively. One of the biggest additions to the sporting landscape on the peninsula in recent years was the introduction of a new all weather hockey pitch on the Beaverstown Road. The pitch is also used by the Educate Together and the Community College and in recent years it has become a major part of local life. Another addition to the sporting landscape was the inclusion of a new Tennis Club beside Donabate golf course. This has provided yet another sporting option to the locals of the peninsula and is hopefully the first of many new sports coming to the area.

The future for sport in Donabate looks bright. One of the brightest lights shining is the revamped sporting and education hub in Ballymastone. The new hub which intends to improve and expand the facilities at St Patrick's GAA and St Itas AFC along with adding a new all weather pitch, running track, playground, community rooms/spaces and new school facilities. These facilities will bring Donabate's sport into a new era of excellence.

Donabate is growing at an unprecedented rate and has one of the fastest growing populations in Ireland. Therefore these new sporting facilities are essential for the growing population and a concrete timetable for the plans is not readily available although we would hope construction to begin in the next few years.



In conclusion, sports and sports facilities in the Donabate area are improving rapidly and these new developments and ideas will only add to a very special neighbourhood. The wide variation of sports in such a small area makes for a bright colourful and inclusive community.

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