

LUX LITERATUS



Literacy @ Tarporley High School & Sixth Form College

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Edition 1, May 2022

Welcome to the first edition of our Lux Literatus newsletter. In these sheets, we will celebrate and promote all things literacy. Literacy is all about reading, writing, speaking and listening. The newsletter will provide lots of fun things to read and also tips for developing your own literacy skills at school and home.

THE THS 2022 ANTHOLOGY

This year, we are very excited to launch our first ever school anthology! Our anthology will be a collection of student literary works from across the whole school, which demonstrate the highest standards of communication. The pieces will be selected and nominated by your teachers and the collection will be published on our website for the whole school community to see. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to become 'published,' possibly for the first time! **Will you be nominated?** Look out for the anthology in school and on our website towards the end of the summer term.



The more that you READ, the MORE things you'll know. The MORE that you LEARN, the MORE places you'll go.

- Dr. Suess

EXTRAORDINARY ETYMOLOGY!

Did you know that whenever you use the words Wednesday, Thursday or Friday, you are actually saluting a Viking God? The incredible origin of these words harks back to the end of the first millennia when Woden, Thor and Freya presided over Valhalla, and were at the centre of Viking religion.

In addition to this, did you know that 'Bluetooth' is actually named after the Viking King, Harald Bluetooth? He was a awesome communicator and united Norway and Denmark. When the inventors of 'Bluetooth' created it in 1997, they decided to combine the Viking



rune symbols for 'H' and 'B' (Harald Bluetooth) into the



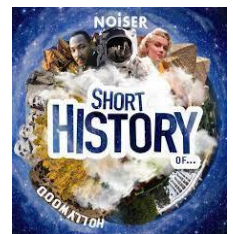
symbol we use today. Seems Harald's dead, mouldy front tooth bit it's way into the history books forever!

Literacy @ home

One of the best ways to develop your communication skills at home, is through playing a good old boardgame. We recommend some *old skool* Scrabble, Monopoly or Boggle to get that dialogue going!

PODCAST HOT PICK!

Listening is a great way to improve your vocabulary. So get off those screens, get those earphones in, sit back and take a listen. We recommend: A Short History of the Titanic.



AMAZING MEDIEVAL INSULTS!

Even back in the medieval period, people loved throwing each other a bit of shade. Here are a couple of hilarious insults from the Middle Ages. Imagine shouting these at your neighbour?

“Checketh out this scoundrel, he behath a base football player!”

Yes, you read correctly. Football was already making an appearance in the medieval period. Society associated it with the lower classes, with lawlessness and violence and this insult was certainly used to put people in their place.

“Behold ye, ye be sucheth a mandrake mimmerkin!”

This *cuss* was thrown around when someone behaved in a childish manner, screaming their head off and throwing a tantrum! Can you use your literary skills and make the Harry Potter link?



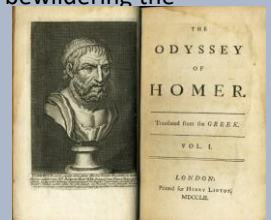
TEACHER BOOK REVIEW

In this edition, Ms Marshall reviews Homer's 'The Odyssey.'

Homer's *Odyssey* was one of the set texts for my Classical Studies GCSE; I avidly read the entire book in my own time, despite having previously fallen out of love with reading. To this day, I still have the annotated text on my bookshelf.

The epic saga of Odysseus and his ten-year journey home after the Trojan War was an instant favourite of mine. His use of the wooden horse will forever be the greatest war tactic. Odysseus is confronted by natural and supernatural threats - ship wrecks, battles, monsters and the ruthless hatred of the sea-god Poseidon. He must use his bravery and wit to eventually reach his homeland of Ithaca.

The tale that always comes to my mind first is Odysseus' humorous use of chicanery in bewildering the cyclops, Poseidon's one-eyed son, Polyphemus. Held captive along with his men in a cave inhabited by sheep and goats, the hero manages to trick the monster into believing that he is called *Outis* translating as 'Nobody'. This bodes well when Odysseus manages to overpower the cyclops, blinding him in the process. Shouting in agony and pain Polyphemus declares *Outis* was trying to kill him. The other cyclopes on the island were perplexed and told him to pray to his father, Poseidon for help. Genius!



I also recall continuously calling Agamemnon *Armageddon*, which led to laughing fits from the entire class, including my very prim and proper teacher, Mrs Ramage. During the lessons, Homer's words made me cry tears of laughter as well as sadness; he angered me with his use of flagrant misogyny, whilst mesmerising me with his use of intricate imagery. He incorporated the full spectrum of human emotion.

Whenever I am at the beach, especially a Mediterranean one, I am reminded of the timeless myths of fortitude and heroism and how Homer's *Odyssey* reignited my love for literature.