

Reading@PMGHS #3

POEM OF THE WEEK

Everyone Sang

by Siegfried Sassoon

Siegfried Sassoon wrote this poem in 1918, probably based on his own experience in the trenches towards the end of the First World War. But reading it now might also suggest parallels with what people have been doing during lockdown.

Everyone suddenly burst out singing;
And I was filled with such delight
As prisoned birds must find in freedom,
Winging wildly across the white
Orchards and dark-green fields; on – on – and
out of sight.

Everyone's voice was suddenly lifted;
And beauty came like the setting sun:
My heart was shaken with tears; and horror
Drifted away ... O, but Everyone
Was a bird; and the song was wordless; the
singing will never be done.

Did You Know?

- ✓ Malcom X learnt to read in prison by copying out pages of the dictionary. He started at A and kept going.
- ✓ The fear of running out of something to read is called 'abibliophobia'.
- ✓ The M6 Toll Road was partly built with 2.5 million pulped copies of Mills and Boon romance novels

Look at What Your Teachers Are Reading

Mr Foster, I Wanna Be Yours by John Cooper Clark
Mr Yelland, The Huguenot Connection Trilogy by Paul C. R. Monk
Mr Basquill, Real Tigers by Mick Heron
Miss Packwood, The Sacrifice by Charlie Higson

“Show me a family of readers, and I will show you the people who move the world.”

Napoleon Bonaparte, 1769-1821

The Mice by Lydia Davis

Mice live in our walls but do not trouble our kitchen. We are pleased but cannot understand why they do not come into our kitchen where we have traps set, as they come into the kitchens of our neighbours. Although we are pleased, we are also upset, because the mice behave as though there were something wrong with our kitchen. What makes this even more puzzling is that our house is much less tidy than the houses of our neighbours. There is more food lying about in our kitchen, more crumbs on the counters and filthy scraps of onion kicked against the base of the cabinets. In fact, there is so much loose food in the kitchen I can only think the mice themselves are defeated by it. In a tidy kitchen, it is a challenge for them to find enough food night after night to survive until spring. They patiently hunt and nibble hour after hour until they are satisfied. In our kitchen, however, they are faced with something so out of proportion to their experience that they cannot deal with it. They might venture out a few steps, but soon the overwhelming sights and smells drive them back into their holes, uncomfortable and embarrassed at not being able to scavenge as they should.

Missing Animals...Can you complete these book titles?

- 1 The Curious Incident of the ___ in the Night-time
- 2 Of ___ and Men
- 3 Do Androids Dream of Electric ___?
- 4 The Very Hungry _____
- 5 To Kill a _____
- 6 Lord of the _____
- 7 Fantastic Mr _____
- 8 The _____ of the Baskervilles
- 9 _____ Brother
- 10 The Voyage of the _____



Answers:

1. Dog, by Mark Haddon
4. Caterpillar by Eric Carle
7. Fox by Roald Dahl
10. Beagle by Charles Darwin

2. Mice by John Steinbeck
5. Mockingbird by Harper Lee
8. Hound by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

3. Sheep by Phillip K Dick
6. Flies by William Golding
9. Wolf by Michelle Paver