

The Roundhill Chronicle

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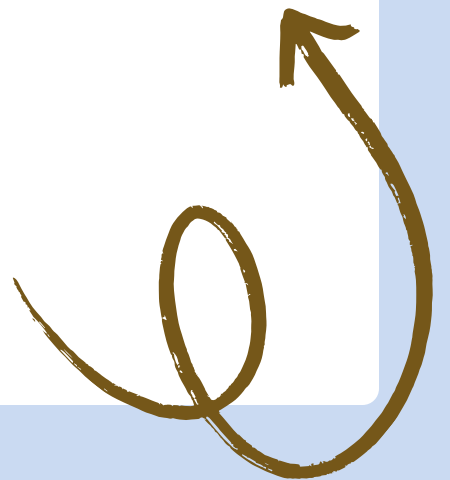
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Welcome to The Roundhill Chronicle!

Our first ever edition is ready for you!

Welcome to the very first edition of The Roundhill Chronicle your student-led English newspaper, created by students, for students! This publication celebrates the creativity, curiosity, and voice of Roundhill learners through writing, art, and opinions. At The Roundhill Chronicle, we believe every student has a story to tell and this is your platform to share it. So read on, get inspired, and maybe even see your own work in the next issue!





Away with the Fairies

Four days since I'd been missing. Four days since the Summer Solstice. Four days since I had been lured away by the fairies. Four days of being trapped in these endless woods. The trees toyed with my mind. I imagined faces, noises in the night. How insane would I be by the time I return to civilization? Would I even remember my own name? Enough of these depressing thoughts. I am Seren Katie Beckett and nothing can harm me. Soon, I would be back home with my parents, my annoying little sister and my three-year-old beagle, Luna. As the sun was setting and the night drew nearer, I slipped into an uneasy sleep. It was dreamless and rather peaceful until...

CRACK!!! I sat up with a jolt. "Who's there?" I called out into the darkness. "Stay back!" Grabbing a branch, I shouted, "I have a stick and I'm NOT afraid to use it!"

"Don't hurt me," they replied. "I'm Martin." Martin walked out of the shadows. He looked about eleven – the same age as me – or maybe younger. "I, I, I got lost in the woods," he stammered. "The fairies, they led me away." Martin ran his fingers through his shaggy, chestnut-brown hair as he said this. The fairies are ethereal, mischievous creatures that delight in stealing children away from all they know and devouring their souls one by one.

They trick you and charm you and draw you further and further into the woods, until the trees are so dense that hardly any sunlight shines through. And the Fae, they leave you there to turn mad, saving you for when they next feel hungry.

Over the next few hours, I learnt more about Martin: who he was, where he came from and what he had left behind. He came from a small coastal town on the other side of the woods. I often visited there with my family so I know the place well. Martin has his two younger brothers, his mum and his grandma that he shares a house with. “They’ll be so worried,” Martin cries and breaks down into tears. I do my best to comfort him.

“Shh, shh. It’s okay, we’ll get back home,” I say, trying to sound reassuring.

“But what if I never see them again?” Martin sobs.

“We will. We just need a plan.”

“Ok!”

“First, we need food,” I say. “So let’s start looking for some.” We stand up and stretch our aching legs. Pointing between two trees, I say, “We should go that way.” Martin and I walk for what seems like hours. We walk until the sky darkens and it is time to sleep. We come to a remote clearing in the centre of the forest.

“We should camp here for the night,” Martin says. I’m surprised by this because all of the time that we have been walking, he’s barely said anything. I look around, seeing if there is anything that we could use to build a shelter, when something catches my eye.

“What’s that?” I ask, pointing to something in a tall oak tree. I start to climb up it. Luckily, the tree has some low-down branches.

“Should you really be doing that?” Martin questions me.

I reply, “It’ll be fine! Stop worrying!” Seriously, who is he, my grandma? Carrying on climbing, I finally get to the branch with the **THING** on it.

“It’s a bag!” I call down to Martin, “With a note attached to it.” I sling the bag over my shoulders and climb down. Back on the ground, I pass the note over to Martin. He reads it aloud: “The note says, ‘For all those who need it.’”

“What’s that supposed to mean?”

“Seren, why on Earth would I know what it means?”

“I dunno,” I snap back. “Anyway, let’s have a look in the bag.” We open the bag to find biscuits, tinned food, bottles of water, various other things and—wait, what’s that? A flint and steel! In case you don’t know what a flint and steel is, I will tell you. A flint and steel is a piece of metal that you strike with a bit of rock to make a fire. I used them on my Y6 residential and (in my personal opinion) I’m very good at it.

I told Martin to start gathering dry leaves and small sticks. “Don’t go too far!” I warned him. A few minutes later he came back with an armful of twigs and leaves.

“Huzzah!” I shouted. “First try.”

But then something strange happened. The fire grew, consuming the stack then the nearby grass until almost half of the clearing was covered in roaring flames. An unworldly figure drifted out of the fire. With her willowy figure, long blonde hair that cascades down her back like a waterfall, and her eyes that are as green as the trees, she would be the most beautiful person in all the world—if it weren’t for the evil glint in her eye and a cruel, twisted smile upon her blood-red lips.

“You are mine,” she whispered, and then she was gone.

“Run!” Martin screamed. I grabbed the supplies and we ran.

“That is not normal,” I said, when we finally paused for breath. That’s when I noticed something.

“There’s no smoke,” I tell Martin.

“Dunno,” he replies unhelpfully.

I sit, deep in thought for a minute or two.

“Of course!” I shout, jumping to my feet. “It was an illusion.”

“We have to get out tonight,” I say.

We trudge on through the night. Martin and I walk for hours, not saying a word to each other. The sun rises in the east and I must say, it is a beautiful sight. The orange glow peaks through the trees, dappling the forest floor with a peachy shine.

Finally, Martin says, “We should stop for a rest.” So we sit. I hand him a couple of the biscuits that we found in the bag. “We should come to the edge of the forest soon,” I tell Martin.

Carrying on walking, we soon see the line of trees that marks the end of the woods.

“We’re here!” I scream with joy.

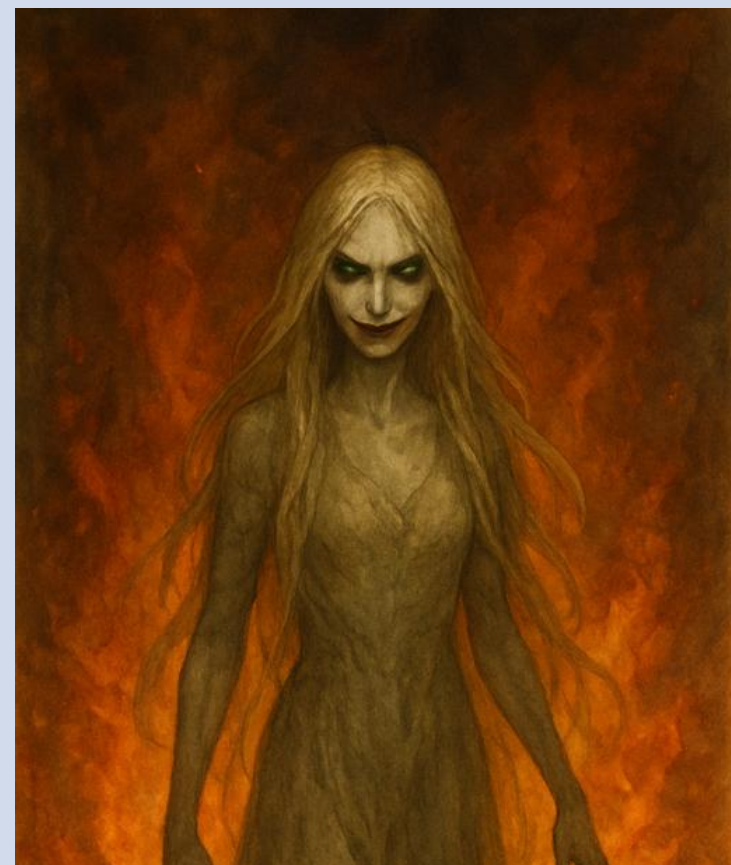
I hurtle towards the end, towards freedom. But I get bounced back. Again and again I’m repelled.

The willowy figure appears. This time she is on the other side of the barrier. Her face sneers at me.

“You just don’t get it, do you?” she says in her icy voice. “There is no escape. You are mine.”

We were trapped...

By Orla Shaw- 7A





***Illustrated by Manjot Singh-
9A***

Gas

Rapid shuttering bangs,
Gas, GAS!
A rushing fumble for only one thing
Their gas masks

It was too late,
Flames of once bright clear bright futures were snuffed out
In a poisonous ocean, flames in agony,

Snuffing out flames worldwide
Submerged in a poisonous gas
Only burnt wicks remaining on cold bodies,
Only the old, running out remain

By Manjot Singh- 9A



Illustrated by Ruby Mowatt-Wicks- 11B

Between amber and ice

The chocolate-brown woods now whisper soft goodbyes,
the twilight waves dust over the maple-covered floors.
The sun closes its eyes, as snowy sparkles flutter in,
as daylight's breath grows pale, withdrawn and cold.

Leaves crisp over and crumble away like flakes of gold,
while rivers slow beneath a glossy skin.
Pumpkins evolve and turn into icy snowmen,
like golden secrets whispering their end.

Snow begins to sketch where shadows lie,
erasing paths where the autumn glow used to flow,
and winter waits, patient, to step within.
For beauty sleeps, not gone, but changed instead.

Between the breath of dusk and dawn's white light,
the seasons trade their crowns in silent rite.

By Ariya Budwal- 11C



Writer of the Term

The Twisted Red Riding Hood.

Well, you may have heard of the Little Red Riding Hood story, right? Well, here's my version. The true version. As that little girl twisted my story. The forest mimicked her secrets; shadows stretched beneath the skeletal trees. I trotted through the bushes every step filled with grief and the taste of revenge lingering on my tongue. I wasn't going to let her get away with this! Her crimson cloak, masked with innocence as it's dripping with the blood of my ancestors. This morsel. This murderer. I hope you have your gravestone ready as you've not seen the last of the "big bad wolf". From behind an oak tree, I saw her silhouette against the light of the trail, a figure both naïve and monstrous. She's a living death, so devious yet so pure. But revenge isn't simple. I know what I'll do. I will trick her at her own game. I accidentally stepped on a twig. The snap echoed around the forest, alerting my target. Red turned, her eyes daring. Darting. Her smile didn't quite reach her eyes. Her pupils so empty it was like staring into the abyss.



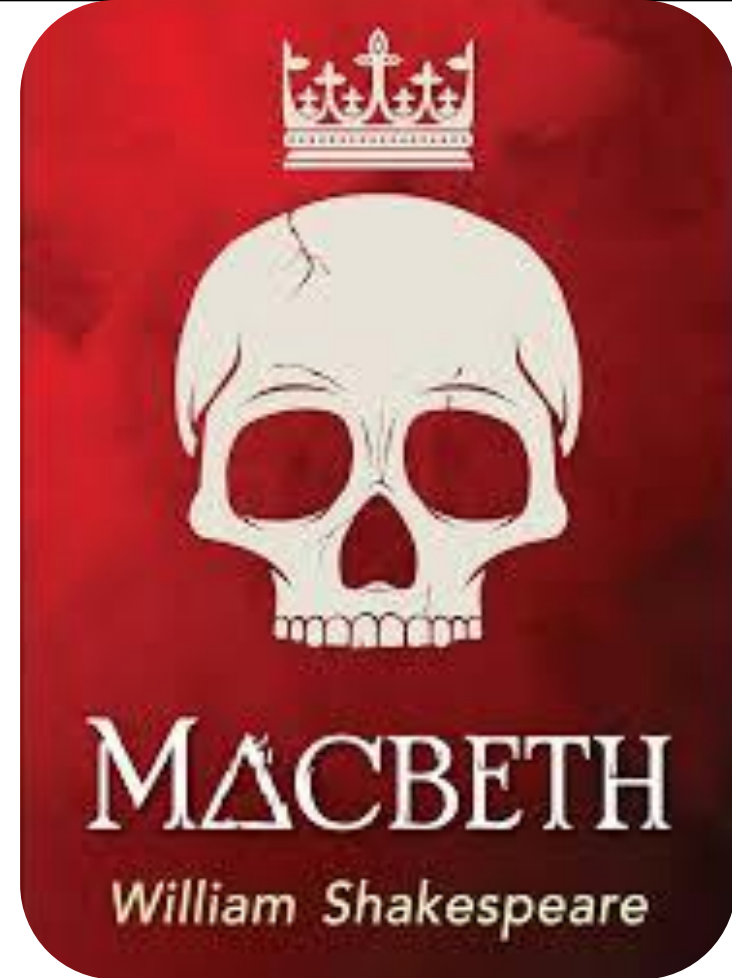
“Hello, Mr Wolf, what brings you around?” She spoke gently, too sweetly like she was speaking words of poison.

“Oh nothing, where are you off to, perhaps I could help you?” Lies. I admit, but it’s a part of my plan.

“Sorry Mr Wolf, I am going to Grandmas. You can’t help me, oh and how’s your family?”

My eyes begin to swell in grief, how dare she use them against me “good day to you little girl.” I’m not taking that. I will pay Grandma a little visit, shall I? Darting to the old woman’s house, a small cottage with crumbling bricks. I pounded down the door to a frail old woman sitting on her bed. This time, her family goes down as well. In a big gulp, the weak, old woman’s flesh had been pierced and consumed in one. Her screams filled the walls. Red burst through the door, her blood boiled but with no grief in sight, only she became the hunter, and I was the prey. She grabbed an axe; it glistened in this moonlight ready to become a weapon. I bared my teeth ready to pounce. Red’s laughter rang round sharp as her axe before launching at me. My claws scraped along her cloak, but her axe embedded my fur causing metallic blood to ooze from my arm. I winced in pain and collapsed to the ground. Red gleamed before skipping over “aww what’s wrong little wolf? ... It’s ok.... I’ll put you out of your misery.... Oh, don’t worry.... You can join my collection.”

By Isla-Mae Taylor-8A



Macbeth



Summary-

Macbeth is a Shakespearean play about a Scottish man who is corrupted by ambition. After being told he will be king by three witches, Macbeth—encouraged by Lady Macbeth—commits regicide (kills the king) so he can take the throne. After killing King Duncan, he is consumed by fear and guilt, leading him to commit more murders. As Macbeth becomes a tyrant, Scotland falls into chaos. Eventually, he is killed by Macduff.

Character development-

Shakespeare's writing is intense and meaningful, using violent, vivid imagery to create an atmosphere of inevitable doom throughout the play.

Lady Macbeth is one of the most compelling and influential characters, starting off confident and powerful but eventually becoming broken and overcome by guilt. Macbeth's transformation from a brave hero to a psychotic tyrant is both tragic and fascinating.

Who should read it?

I think students should read Macbeth because it introduces you to classic literature, powerful themes, and one of Shakespeare's most famous plays. If you are interested in power and morality, this play explores how ambition can corrupt people. It shows how a person can turn evil through pressure, desire, and fear. It is also ideal for fans of dark, dramatic stories, as this play is intense, fast-paced, and filled with betrayal, murder, the supernatural, and conflict.

Relevance of key themes

This play raises important themes that are still relevant today, such as the corrupting influence of power, the effects of guilt on the mind, and how ambition without morals can lead to destruction. Although the language can be difficult, once you understand it, the story is incredibly engaging.

Overall

Macbeth is a powerful and timeless dramatic play. Its interesting characters, chilling atmosphere, and vital themes make it one of Shakespeare's most famous and impactful works.

By Ruby Mowatt-Wicks- 11B



Demon Slayer Vol 1

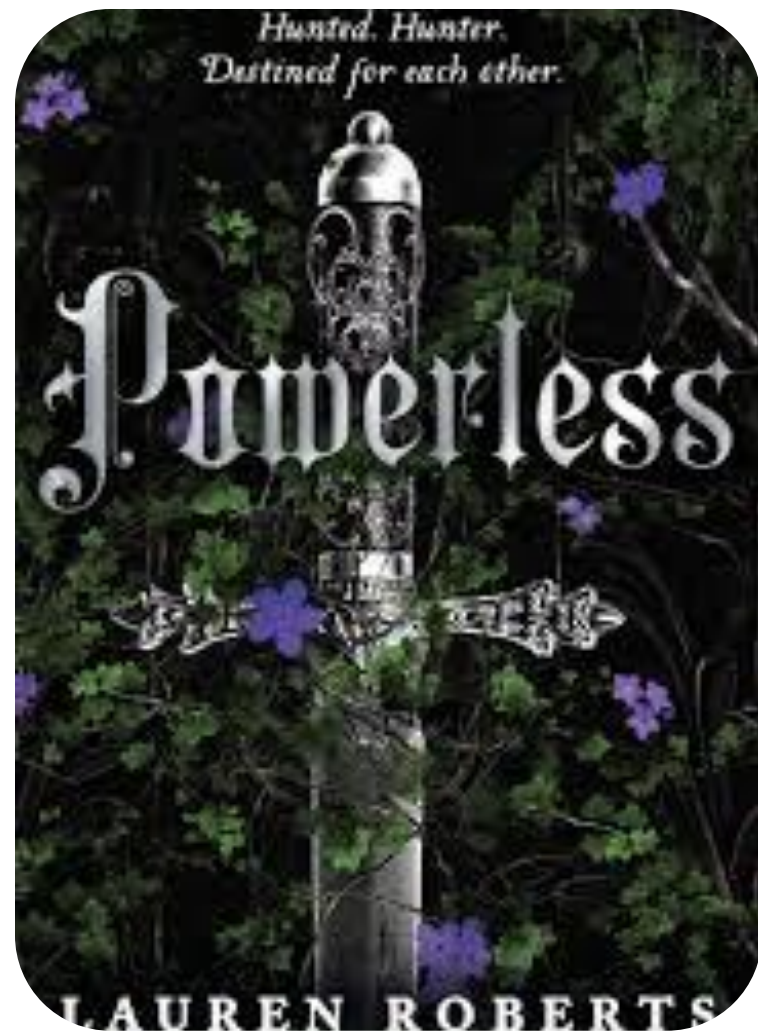
Demon Slayer Vol 1 is a great manga that pulls you in right from the start. It follows a boy called Tanjiro Kamado, who works as a coal burner to help his family. One night he stays at a man's house because it's dangerous to travel with demons around. When he finally gets home the next morning, he finds his whole family has been killed.

The only one still alive is his sister Nezuko, but she has turned into a demon. Tanjiro tries to save her, and this is when we first see Giyu Tomioka, the Water Hashira. At first he wants to kill Nezuko because she is a demon, but he changes his mind after seeing how protective she is of Tanjiro. This moment is really powerful and it shows how strong their bond is. It also sets Tanjiro on his journey to find a cure for her and fight demons.

The story is full of action and emotional moments, and the artwork makes everything even better. Some scenes are quite sad, and you really feel for the characters.

There are 23 volumes in total, and the story gets even more exciting later on, especially in the Infinity Castle arc. I read a lot of manga even though I don't usually read normal books, and Demon Slayer is one of my favourites. If you like action and stories that make you feel something, you should definitely read it.

By Milan Barnes- 9A



Powerless

A Gripping Journey Worth Every Page

Powerless is one of those novels that greets readers with an imposing page count and a sense of intensity from the very beginning. At first glance, its length may feel daunting, especially for those juggling schoolwork or looking for something light. But give it time, and you'll quickly discover that it's a story that more than earns the hours you'll spend with it. What makes Powerless so compelling is the way it constantly shifts beneath your feet.

Staff Read

Just when you think you've pieced together the puzzle, a new twist snaps into place, raising the stakes and reshaping everything you thought you knew. Rather than dragging, the plot unfolds with purpose and precision: each chapter adding new layers to the world, the characters, and the mysteries surrounding them.

The author crafts a tense, atmospheric setting where power (both literal and symbolic) is at the centre of everything. The characters are vivid and complex, each shaped by the political tensions, hidden agendas, and moral grey areas of their world. As alliances form and break, as secrets rise to the surface, and as danger becomes increasingly impossible to outrun, the story becomes genuinely hard to put down.

Despite its length, Powerless rewards patient readers with emotional depth, thrilling momentum, and a finale that leaves you thinking long after you've closed the book. It's the kind of novel that pulls you in slowly, then refuses to let go.

Verdict: A richly detailed, twist-filled adventure that rewards every minute invested. If you're looking for a gripping read to immerse yourself in, Powerless is absolutely worth your time.

By Ms Dalal

KS3

Recommended Reads

KS4



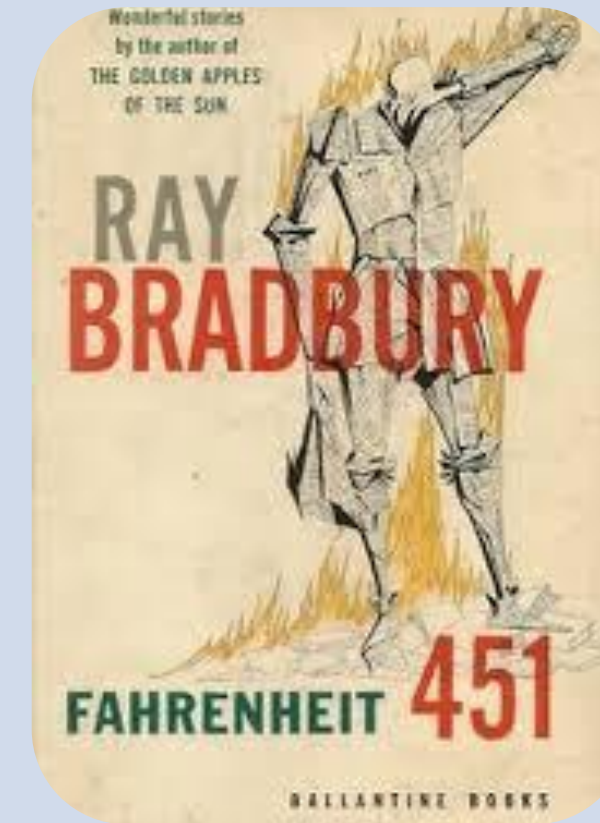
Wonder – R.J. Palacio: A moving story about kindness, empathy and what it means to be different.



Coraline – Neil Gaiman: A dark fantasy where a brave girl faces fear in a strange parallel world.



The Kite Runner – Khaled Hosseini: An emotional novel about friendship, guilt and redemption set in Afghanistan.



Fahrenheit 451 – Ray Bradbury: A dystopian classic exploring censorship, knowledge and the power of books.



The Importance of Adaptations

Stories have always been part of human life. People share them through books, plays and now movies. Film adaptation means turning a story into a movie. It is not copying it is creating something new and unique. For example, The Romeo and Juliet kept Shakespeare's words but changed the set into a modern city. Adaptations let more people enjoy the story and give directors time to add their own ideas and make the story stronger using images, music, act and emotions. If you think movies can replace books and plays, then you are wrong because they only give stories new life and help them shine.

Between 70%-80% of people prefer watching movies or TV over reading. Film adaptations reach wider to the audience than books. Film adaptation also helps the people who are struggling with reading they can experience great stories through films.

They also help preserving classics throughout the years such as Frankenstein. These plays stay alive when turned into movies and make them look fresh for the upcoming generation. Now, in the world of streaming it makes it even easier to access these adaptations instantly, anywhere in the world.

Adaptation is not just copy- they allow directors and writers to add their creative ideas; they can also change the settings and can use modern language. film adaptations make classics feel new like polishing old gold until it shines again. They also add emotional power through visuals, music, and acting. some adaptations such as 'The Godfather'. They reinvent the stories & plays into a long-lasting connection with the audiences.

Film adaptations are not always perfect. Movies are shorter than books, so they often leave out important details. Directors sometimes change parts of the story, which can upset fans. Some films focus more on making money than telling the story well. Finally, movies can become more famous than the books, which means people may forget the original.

Film adaptations matter because they:

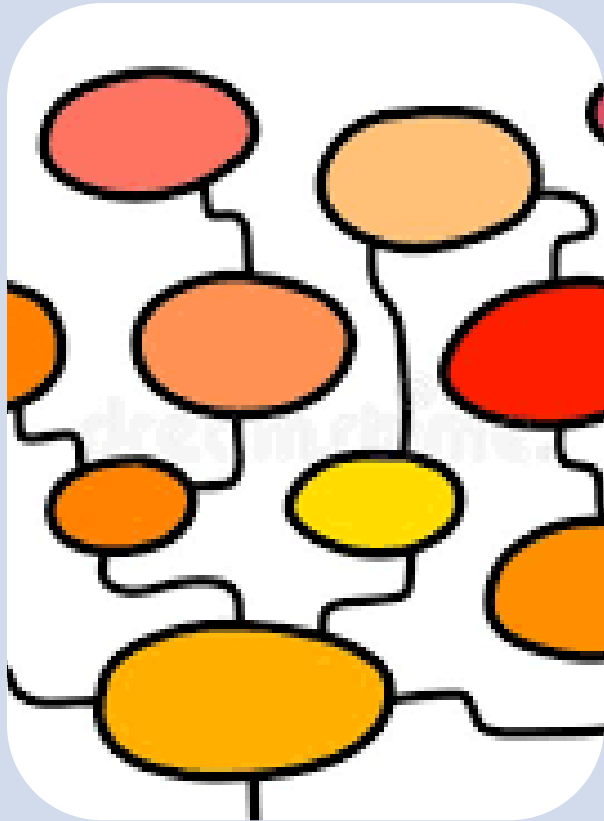
- Make stories easier to enjoy
- Keep literature alive
- Bring fresh creative ideas
- Create powerful emotional experiences

At the same time, they can lose detail or change their meaning. Movies don't replace books or play—they reimagine them, giving stories new life and keeping them important for the future.

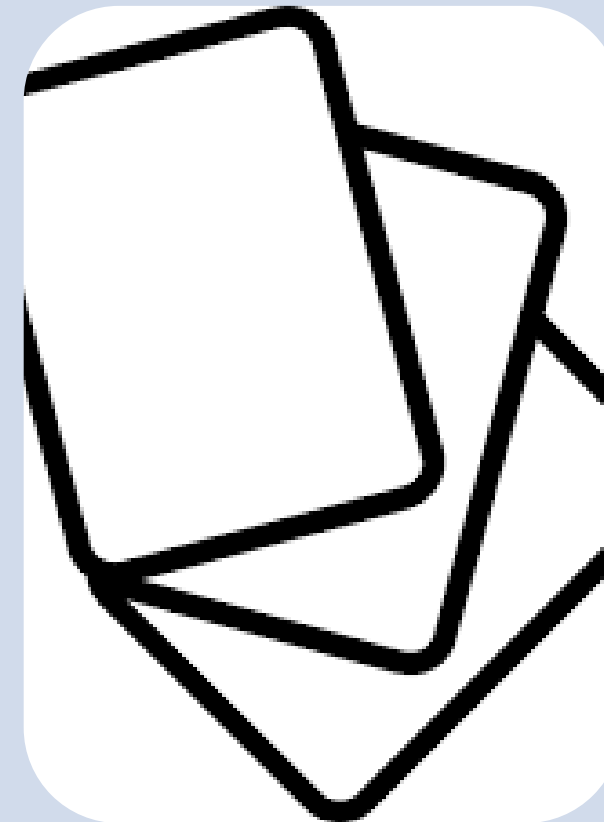
By Prutha Bhatt - 9B

Revision Strategies by Mrs Phakey

‘Little and often - with regular breaks! Don’t try to ‘cram’ , it doesn’t work.’



Use ***mind-maps*** to recall key ideas and quotations about a theme or character - then add to it in a different colour using your notes!



Revision cards can be really useful if used properly - try having a family member test you!



Complete ***TIMED exam practice*** questions - then give them to your English teacher for marking and feedback!



Try a range of different ***active revision methods*** - quizzes, mind maps, practice questions, revision cards, etc.



Interview with Miss Bates

How do students use reading skills in Food Studies?

Students use reading skills to follow recipes accurately and safely. They also read food labels, nutritional information, and allergy warnings to judge whether products are suitable for different consumers.

In what ways does writing play a role in Food Studies?

Writing is used to evaluate practical work and identify strengths and areas for improvement. At GCSE level, students write procedural texts such as methods and time plans, as well as extended written exam responses.

How important is subject-specific vocabulary and accurate language when teaching food preparation and safety?

Subject-specific vocabulary is very important in Food Studies as it allows students to understand key food science processes such as gelatinisation, shortening, and dextrinisation. Accurate use of this language helps students understand how ingredients behave during preparation and why particular methods are used to ensure food safety and quality.

How do speaking and listening skills support practical work in the kitchen?

Speaking and listening skills are essential during practical lessons to ensure instructions are followed accurately and safely. Students use these skills to work effectively in teams, communicate during practical tasks, and discuss outcomes during activities such as sensory analysis.

How can persuasive or informative writing be linked to Food Studies?

Persuasive and informative writing is closely linked to Food Studies through areas such as food marketing and menu design. Persuasive language is used to promote food products, while informative writing is needed to clearly communicate ingredients, allergens, and nutritional information so consumers can make informed choices.



Interview with Miss Iftekhar

What do you think is the most important skill students learn in English class?

Learning to express ideas clearly. Both in writing and speaking, it is the most valuable skill, and it helps in every subject.

What's your favourite topic to teach, and why?

I love teaching Macbeth. The Shakespearean language is difficult to understand but the themes and characters that Shakespeare creates are so complex but fun to learn and teach about. And once the students understand, they really enjoy it too!

How do you help students who don't enjoy reading find books they like?

I talk to them about their interests, whether it is sports, mysteries, fantasy, real-life stories and match them with books that fit their personality.

What's your favorite poem to teach?

"Still I Rise" by Maya Angelou. Students connect with its strength, confidence, and message of resilience.

How do you encourage students to grow as writers?

I focus on giving positive feedback first, then guiding them to improve one skill at a time for example word choice or structure, so it never feels overwhelming.

Why do you think reading is important outside of school?

Reading helps you understand different perspectives, improves focus, and honestly it's a great way to relax.

How do you choose which books to recommend to students?

I look at the student's interests and reading level, and then try to pick something engaging that fits their personality.

By Arya Vaze-8B

Language techniques

I	O	O	O	P	E	O	E	E	P	O	A	M	S
O	N	O	M	A	T	O	P	O	E	I	A	T	O
R	E	E	C	N	A	N	O	S	S	A	O	A	X
Y	N	L	O	O	A	A	I	A	O	C	H	L	Y
B	C	R	L	E	A	O	P	E	F	M	Y	L	M
M	O	E	I	E	I	I	R	E	T	M	P	I	O
E	E	P	E	L	S	I	M	I	L	E	E	T	R
T	M	E	E	C	T	A	L	O	C	R	R	E	O
A	S	T	A	T	I	S	T	I	C	F	B	R	N
P	O	I	O	I	A	A	A	N	A	I	O	A	Y
H	N	T	I	N	T	C	O	C	A	A	L	T	I
O	S	I	C	O	E	N	T	O	E	T	E	I	A
R	X	O	M	Y	T	N	O	O	M	P	I	O	O
M	M	N	E	X	O	O	I	E	S	T	A	N	N

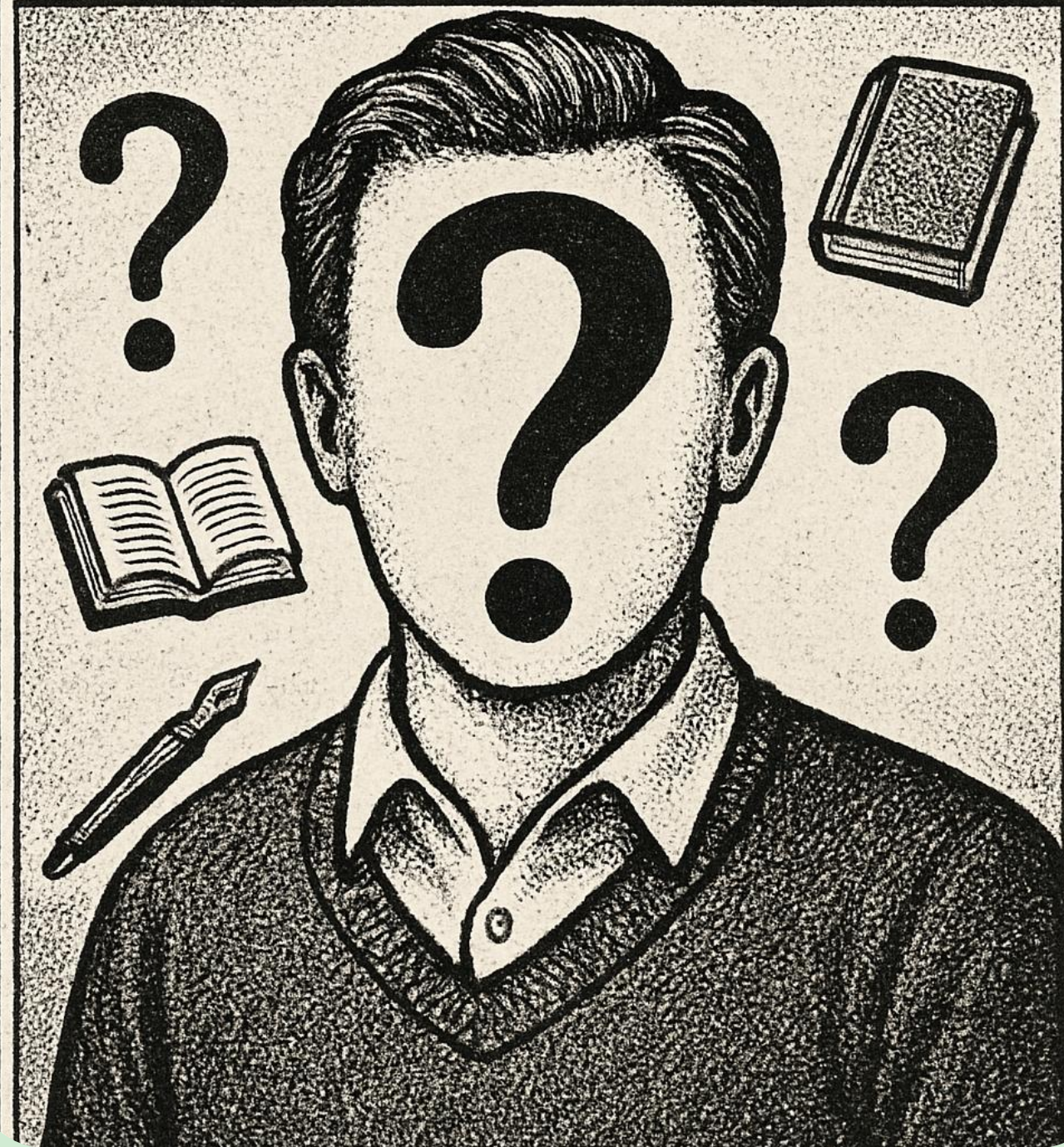
Find the Rhetorical Devices

- Fact
- Simile
- Onomatopoeia
- Assonance
- Oxymoron
- Hyperbole
- Statistic
- Repetition
- Alliteration
- Metaphor

Challenge Yourself!
Once you've found all the words, try writing a sentence using at least three of the techniques listed above.

By Divine Debo-Owoseni- 11B

GUESS THE AUTHOR



Guess the Author

Hard Clue:

1. This author was once a fighter pilot before becoming a writer.

Medium Clues:

2. He often wrote stories where children defeat cruel, ridiculous adults.

3. Many of his books include magical or slightly creepy twists.

4. He created some of the most famous villains in children's literature.

Easy Clues:

5. He wrote about a chocolate factory with a very unusual owner.

6. One of his characters is a giant who collects dreams in jars.

7. He wrote a book where a girl has extraordinary brainpower.

Super Easy Final Clue:

8. His first name is Roald...



English Humor

Why was the English teacher wearing sunglasses?

Because her students were so bright!

Why was the letter A so good in school?

Because it was always ahead.

Why don't adjectives ever win races?

Because they're always describing, never running!

Why did the student bring a ladder to English?

Because the work was high-level!

C
O
M
I
C

The Trials of POETRY CLASS

Confusing POEM ANALYSIS!

What could the "cloud" symbolize?

"I wandered lonely as a cloud..."

SYMBOLISM??

Write Your OWN POEM!

Time to write your own poems! Be creative!

Ugh... what rhymes with orange?

Where words fear to tread...

Awkward LIVE READING...

Roses are red...

My heart is orange?

Must be pure O-PROSE-ture...

Roses are red... My heart is beating...

HAHA!

OH No...

Must be pure o-PROSE-ture...

ENOUGH ALREADY!

I CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE!

Busy as a bee!

A METAPHOR

ALLITERATION

ENGLISH with EXTRA SAUCE!

Words Served Silly!

VOCABULARY BURGERS

In English, we build our vocabulary...

WORD BURGER

GARGANTUAN

UBIQUITOUS

FACETIOUS

Commas save lives!

CHEESY WRITING...

Let's cut out the CHEESY lines, shall we?

I'M WRITING IT!

FRESH cliches

HOT cheesy lines

BIG MELTED METAPHORS

Fof Long-some oneonooms

I'M WRITING IT!

My love is hot, like a pizza fresh from the oven!

BJabna Deppite!

PUN & GAMES Delicatessen

Stop taking things so LITERALLY!

Chill

OK...maybe I got too 'sharp' with the cheese!

ENDING IT WITH A BANG!

I added a BANG, like you said!

POETIC POWER

Puns & Games Delicatessen.

S
T
R
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P



Editor's Note

“Thank you for reading the very first issue of The Roundhill Chronicle! From poetry and short stories to reviews and artwork, every page reflects the passion and talent of our students. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed their time, ideas, and enthusiasm to make this edition possible. Your voices truly bring the paper to life! We hope you enjoy reading it as much as we enjoyed creating it.

Keep writing, keep dreaming. Your words have the power to inspire others.”

Miss Iftekhar and Miss Hasan

“The pages you read today will write the person you become tomorrow.”