

Hodgson Academy's Books of the Month for June 2020



KS4: 'Looking for Alaska' by John Green Book

Recommended by Marcy Jeffery

Wow.

With John Green being one of my favourite authors I found it only suitable to read his book 'Looking for Alaska' and after reading it I was shocked that I hadn't come across it before or read it sooner. This book captured me in a state of tranquility and kidnapped me in the storyline to the point that I felt as though I couldn't move until I had finished it. Consequently, I stayed up until an unreasonable hour reading it under a dim light until there was no more of it to digest.

Without spoiling it I will give you a brief insight to the basic storyline. Like most John Green books begin, this began with a lonely teenager who doesn't have many friends. In this case the character is named Miles and he has a mild obsession to reading famous people from history's biographies and memorizing their final words. After coming

across the last words of the deceased poet Francois Rabelais, "I go to seek the Great Perhaps", Miles realized how boring his life is and how he may never seek his "great perhaps" if he doesn't do something to change this. Therefore, he promptly packed his bags and moves away to the boarding school Culver Creek in Alabama, which Green based off the boarding school he attended in his youth and he reflects his teenage years through Miles' character. Miles quickly befriends a group of the students, who turn out to be the school smokers and pranksters, one of which is Alaska Young. He becomes mesmerized by Alaska and her perspective of situations leading to him falling deeply in love with her but too shameful to admit this. The characters back stories unfold and we learn more about the type of people they are and why they are that way, helping you to create a closer bond with them.

It wouldn't be an exaggeration if I said that this book changed my perspective on life. The way each character in the book treats each other and deals with situations in a new way, really helps you see that things aren't as perfect as they may seem and you don't really know people. After reading this I also began my own "life's library" like Alaska had in the story because of how much I loved her obsession with poetry and reading. I don't usually like to re-read books because there are so many books in the world so why spend what little time you may have to read on a book you have already read, but I can confidently say I will definitely be reading this again sometime in the near future (since we do have a lot more free time in quarantine!)

If I had to describe this book in one word, I couldn't because there are no words in the English language that could ever fulfil what I truly wanted to say. I would recommend this book to anyone aged 13 or above because although I wish everyone could read it, it still contains some mature topics that may not be appropriate to anyone younger. This book is definitely in my top five favourite books- perhaps even my most favourite- and I would score it a five out of five stars without hesitation.

KS3: 'Stormbreaker' by Anthony Horowitz

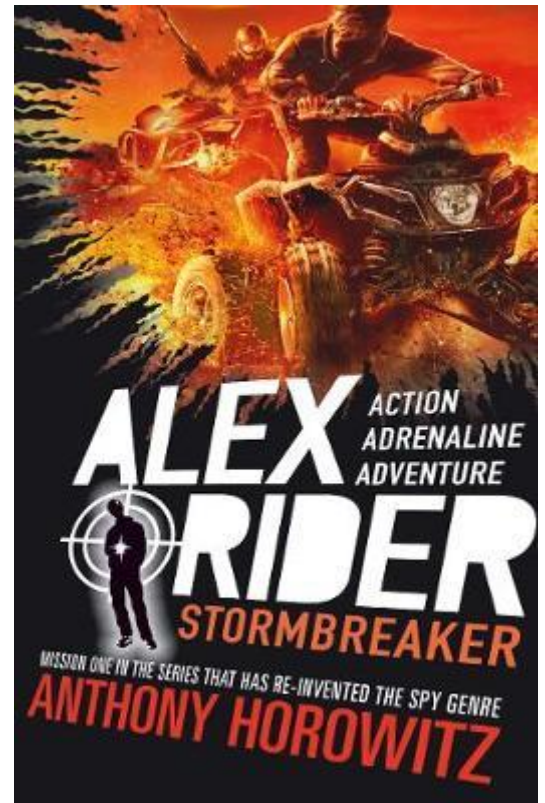
This is Hodgson Online Library's most popular book with KS3 students!

The book that introduced teen super-spy Alex Rider to millions of enthralled fans, *Stormbreaker* is an unstoppable juggernaut of high-octane thrills, action set-pieces and wire-taut narrative tension. Investigating a shadowy individual who is supplying suspicious computers to schools, our young hero embarks on his first top secret mission.

In the first book in the number one bestselling Alex Rider series by Anthony Horowitz, fourteen-year-old Alex is forcibly recruited into MI6.

Armed with secret gadgets, he is sent to investigate Herod Sayle, a man who is offering state-of-the-art Stormbreaker computers to every school in the country. But the teenage spy soon finds himself in mortal danger.

This book will keep you gripped all the way to the end. When you've finished, try the next book in the series 'Point Blanc'.



Both our books of the month are in Hodgson's Online Library. Don't forget to log into your student email before clicking the link on our website for access.

If you can prove you have read one of our books of the month (or any other book for that matter) by emailing an activity based on that book to your English teacher, you will receive House Points and will be entered into our monthly draw to win Amazon vouchers.

Activities to prove you have read and understood your book include any of the following:

- Write a missing chapter from a novel
- Write a detailed diary entry from the perspective of a character in a novel
- Write a newspaper article based on an event in your novel
- Write a poem which addresses a theme in your novel
- Create a vlog of you discussing key aspects of what you have read
- Write an alternative ending for your novel
- Redesign the front cover and rewrite the blurb for the back
- Write a short story which involves a character or a theme from your novel
- Describe a setting from your novel
- Write a book review of your novel

Please also email any recommendations for 'book of the month' to Miss Buckley. Any recommendations that are put onto our website will win an Amazon voucher.

Happy reading!