



# QM Library Newsletter

Issue 7, June 2022 (Edited by Will, Year 10)

## IN DEPTH

### ALL THAT'S LEFT IN THE WORLD

by Erik J. Brown

This post-apocalyptic YA novel, set in near future America, is a terrifying vision of what could (and probably would) happen if a deadly superflu were to sweep the world...

A tiny percentage of humanity survived, including the likeable teenage narrators. Their dual narrative gives a sense of pace & humour to what would otherwise be a gloomy, depressing tale. Jamie, badly injured, happens to find Andrew living in a cabin. Andrew, a gentle, kind soul, shares his food & medical supplies, nursing Jamie back to health.

When events take a sinister turn and they have to flee the relative safety of the cabin, they stumble upon disaster after catastrophe after crisis. As well as encountering gun-wielding, white-supremacist, homophobic survivalists, our protagonists have to outwit escaped zoo animals, endure extreme weather, forage for ever-decreasing supplies of food, all whilst walking hundreds of miles in search of personal redemption and resolution. For Jamie and Andrew are both hiding secrets; on their long journey to find safety and freedom, can these secrets be shared to give them a chance of survival and hope for happiness?

Described by the publishers as a queer adventure romance, for fans of *Heartstopper*, it is also a tense, violent, dystopian novel, perfect for fans of the *Gone* series. It is suitable for those in Year 9 and above.

Mrs Walker (Librarian)

## PEARLS OF WISDOM

from *Clouds Cannot Cover Us*

by Jay Hulme

So if fiction is the foundation on which I build my life, I can promise you that my turrets will reach the sky.

## QUICK REVIEWS

### THE SILENT PATIENT

by Alex Michaelides

*The Silent Patient* by Alex Michaelides is an excellent thriller combining a classic murder mystery with "a huge plot twist that you'll never see coming" (quote courtesy of Mrs Walker). We follow the story with the protagonist, Theo Faber, a criminal psychotherapist, who finally got the chance to treat Alice Berenson, a woman with a "seemingly perfect" life until she shot her husband six times in the head and has remained silent ever since – it is up to Theo to solve the mystery whilst tangled in his own web of problems that seem surprisingly similar to Alice's story.

Taysir (Year 9)

### THE CATCHER IN THE RYE

by J.D. Salinger

*The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger is a seminal work of literature that, in my opinion, still holds up to this day. The story follows lonely, sardonic teenager Holden Caulfield as he tries to escape the phoniness of 1940s America. In his travels, Holden meets people from all walks of life from nuns to Ivy League show-offs to prostitutes, pimps, and perverts, all while offering his vivid and mostly sarcastic view on life in the Big Apple. While the writing style and overall angst of the book can be a hurdle, I think you'll find that this is a beautiful coming-of-age tale of a boy who has lost his way.

Luke (Year 10)

## WHAT'S ON?

Book clubs continue this month, for all years. See the display in the English corridor for details.

RIW and the Queen's Players will be performing *A Midsummer Night* for one night only on **17<sup>th</sup> June**.

## POETRY

### POEM WITH REFRAIN

When I slip from sleep's abode,  
I moan and groan: my body aches.  
A whole day! A long road!  
And still more hours to go.

Two periods then a rest.  
Two more to get through.  
And then the time that is best,  
But still more hours to go.

Nearly there.  
Nearly there.  
Nearly there,  
But still more hours to go...

Sudhanva (Year 7)

### RONDEAU

Why should the sun permit the cloud?  
He has no reason to be proud.  
Blue dawn, red dusk are known by light.  
When fire surmounts its golden height,  
Who would dare close it in a shroud?

Did no one say it's not allowed  
For more than one to vault the crowd?  
You would not wait to claim your right –  
Why should the sun?

His silver-hooded swagger bowed –  
The chasing winds to keep him cowed –  
Without intimidating might –  
Drained, dispersed, beat before the fight  
I cannot, without this, feel proud.  
Why should the sun?

## JUDGING BY COVERS

