**Student Book Club October Recommendations**

Our book club themes for the month of October were ‘Spooktacular’ and ‘Black History Month.’

Students were able to pick any book that they liked under these themes and when we met to discuss them, they were able to tell us the plot, characters and their opinions on their books.

Here are the books that they read:

* **‘Fledgling’ by Lucy Hope** is a gothic novel. A cherub is blown into Cassie Engel's bedroom during a thunderstorm, triggering a series of terrifying events. Cassie must discover if its arrival was an accident or part of something more sinister. With a self-obsessed opera singer for a mother, a strange taxidermist father, and a best friend who isn't quite what he seems, Cassie is forced to unearth the secrets of her family's past. As the dark forces gather around them, can Cassie protect all that she holds dear?
* **‘To Ride Pegasus’ by Anne McCaffery** is the first novel in the Pegasus Trilogy. The main characters were people whose gifts were unique. For years - centuries - they had not even understood just what they could do with their minds. They had sometimes become astrologers, clairvoyants, or healers, but their Talents were undeveloped and untrained. Henry Darrow was the first to explore the huge wealth of psychic gifts hidden amongst mankind, and it was he who formed the first Parapsychic Centre where Talents could train and be used to revolutionise the world. But their powers set them apart, made them feared, then threatened by the un-Talented. And when dangerous freak 'wild' Talents began to wreak havoc in the outside world, it took all their combined Talented efforts to save themselves.
* **‘Midnight Sun’** by stephanie meyer is a vampire romance novel. It is the first book of the Twilight series but it is from the point of view of Edward. The epic love story between Edward and Bella is developed and anlysed from a new perspective. Meeting Bella is both the most unnerving and intriguing event he has experienced in all his years as a vampire. As we learn more fascinating details about Edward's past and the complexity of his inner thoughts, we understand why this is the defining struggle of his life. How can he justify following his heart if it means leading Bella into danger?
* **‘The Maze Runners’** by James Dashner is a mysterious survival saga that has been adapted into movie blockbusters. When Thomas wakes up in the lift, the only thing he can remember is his name. He’s surrounded by strangers—boys whose memories are also gone. Outside the towering stone walls that surround them is a limitless, ever-changing maze. It’s the only way out—and no one’s ever made it through alive. Then a girl arrives. The first girl ever. And the message she delivers is terrifying: Remember. Survive. Run.
* **‘Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief’** by Rick Riordan is a mystical story of a young boy who is half boy and half God with a lot of references to Greek mythology. He was just a normal kid, he went to school (got expelled but this was not his fault), played sports and hung out with his best friend. Until he accidently vaporized his maths teacher. Now, he spends his time at Camp Half Blood, battling monsters and generally trying to stay alive. And now that Zeus thinks he has stolen his lightning bolt, staying alive is going to be even harder.
* **‘Fallen’** by Lauren Kate is a fantasy, paranormal romance novel. The moment Luce looks at Daniel she knows she has never felt this way before. Except she cannot shakle the feeling that she has with a boy she doesn’t even remember setting her eyes on. Will her attempt to find out why enlighten her – or destroy her? Dangerously exciting and darkyl romantic as it is a thrilling story of forbidden love.
* **‘Stalking Jack the Ripper’** by Kerri Maniscalco is a horror novel that is inspired by the Ripper murders. Seventeen-year-old Audrey Rose Wadsworth was born a lord's daughter, with a life of wealth and privilege stretched out before her. But between the social teas and silk dress fittings, she leads a forbidden secret life. Against her stern father's wishes and society's expectations, Audrey often slips away to her uncle's laboratory to study the gruesome practice of forensic medicine. When her work on a string of savagely killed corpses drags Audrey into the investigation of a serial murderer, her search for answers brings her close to her own sheltered world. The story's shocking twists and turns, augmented with real, sinister period photo is not for the faint hearted.
* **‘The Spooks Apprentice’** by Joseph Delaney is a fictional novel based on the supernatural. For years, the local Spook has been keeping the County safe from evil. Now his time is coming to an end, but who will take over? Many apprentices have tried. Some floundered, some fled, some failed to stay alive. Just one boy is left. Thomas Ward. He is the last hope. But does he stand a chance against Mother Malkin, the most dangerous witch in the County?
* **‘Harry Potter and the half-blood Prince’** by JK Rowling is the 6th novel in the Harry Potter series. When Dumbledore arrives at Privet Drive one summer night to collect Harry Potter, his wand hand is blackened and shrivelled, but he does not reveal why. Secrets and suspicion are spreading through the wizarding world, and Hogwarts itself is not safe. Harry is convinced that Malfoy bears the Dark Mark: there is a Death Eater amongst them. Harry will need powerful magic and true friends as he explores Voldemort's darkest secrets, and Dumbledore prepares him to face his destiny.
* **‘Goosebumps’** by RL Stine is a series of children's horror fiction novels. The stories follow child characters, who find themselves in scary situations, usually involving monsters and other supernatural elements. In total there are 235 books as part of the Goosebumps series.
* **‘The House in the Woods (The Ghost Hunter Chronicles 1)’** by Yvette Fielding is a paranormal children’s novel. When Clovis, Eve and Tom decide to play with a ouija board in an old abandoned house on Halloween, none of them foresees the horrors they’re about to unleash. What starts out as a bit of fun, soon transcends into something far more terrifying when a distressed and determined spirit follows them home. Before long the friends are caught up in a series of events beyond their wildest imaginings and their journey as ghost hunters begins . . .
* **‘Through my eyes’** by Ruby Bridges is the real life story of a young African American girl who attended a segregated school in America in the 1960s. In November 1960, all of America watched as a tiny six-year-old black girl, surrounded by federal marshals, walked through a mob of screaming segregationists and into her school. An icon of the civil rights movement, Ruby Bridges details each dramatic step of this pivotal event in history through her own words.
* **‘Noughts and Crosses’** by Malorie Blackmore is a novel that addresses the injustices in society including racism. Sephy is a Cross: she lives a life of privilege and power. But she's lonely, and burns with injustice at the world she sees around her. Callum is a nought: he's considered to be less than nothing - a blanker, there to serve Crosses - but he dreams of a better life. They've been friends since they were children, and they both know that's as far as it can ever go. Noughts and Crosses are fated to be bitter enemies - love is out of the question. Then - in spite of a world that is fiercely against them - these star-crossed lovers choose each other. But this is love story that will lead both of them into terrible danger and which will have shocking repercussions for generations to come.