

More House Messenger

The Library Newsletter - February 2010

Congratulations to all the entrants into the January Library quiz which concerned pen names used by various authors. Either you are all very knowledgeable or are skilled at the use of Google!! Amongst the entrants were three who share the first place – Alaia de Santis (7S), Nicole Hausdorff (8S) and Taylor Wall (7S) – and one -Elinor Valentine (7M) - in second place. Prizes as usual have already been handed out.

The authors whose pen names were listed were:

- 1) Charles L Dodgson - Lewis Carroll
- 2) Mary Ann Evans - George Elliot
- 3) Samuel Clemens – Mark Twain
- 4) Jane Austen – ‘A Lady’
- 5) Emily Bronte – Ellis Bell
- 6) Eric Blair – George Orwell
- 7) Charles Dickens – Boz
- 8) Daniel Handler – Lemony Snicket

Amongst these authors are several women and it is fascinating to think that there was a time when being a female writer was looked down upon and to their works published or even read by a large number of people, women writers had to use a pen name. It is interesting to note that, when she first began writing children’s books, publishers asked Joanne Kathleen Rowling to change her name as they were afraid boys wouldn’t read a book written by a woman. As the author of the “Harry Potter” books, JK Rowling proved that women can write books that appeal to both girls and boys!

*A Poem for February
February*

*FEBRUARY, bitter February,
Month of hope withheld and promise vain,
Drenching, under fickle smiles, the unvary
Earth with devastating rain.*

*Ere the limes with ruddy spear-points glimmer,
Ere the greenness leap from bush to bush,
While the starveling grass grows dim and dimmer,
And the folded snowdrops push;*

*Ah! be gracious, tenderly relenting,
Take not back thy gifts with churlish hand;
Let the breath of thy serene consenting
Falter through the weary land.*

*Rather thunder on in bleak resistance,
Swift to spoil and rigorous to deny,
Than as thus to veil the sullen distance
With thy bleared and tear-stained sky.*

Arthur Christopher Benson

Library News

Elizabeth Fall (8) and Marissa Lemos (9*) have been appointed as Library Assistants (with badges to identify them to any girls who have not yet made their acquaintance. They will be in the Library at lunchtimes and break times whenever they are otherwise not engaged and will be happy to issue and return books for you. We are very grateful for their assistance*

More Facts About Books

Before the invention of mechanical printing, mentioned in last month's newsletter, books were handmade objects which were very expensive and were both treasured as works of art and also as a sign enduring knowledge. Every stage in the making of a medieval book required intensive work, often requiring the joint efforts of large number of people and a great deal of time. Parchment for the pages had to be made from the dried hides of animals, cut to size and sewn into quires (a collection of 24 or 25 leaves of parchment, folded one within the other to form a book or section of a book). Ink had to be made - there were two completely different types of ink: carbon ink, made of charcoal or lamp-black mixed with a gum and metal-gall ink, usually iron gall, made by mixing a solution of tannic acids with ferrous sulphate also with gum.

Quill pens had to be prepared (the writing quill pen came into use in the seventh century and was the main writing instrument until the introduction of metallic pens and pen nibs that took over in the 1800's) by taking a good strong flight feather from the wing of a healthy bird. to cut back the plume of the feather and remove the barb, or feathery bits, from at least the underside of the central barrel of the feather. Most pictures of scribes show them holding what looks like a narrow stick rather than something fluffy. The structure of the quill was altered by standing it in hot sand for a period of time. This strengthened the barrel of the feather and made it more flexible and less brittle. Once slowly cooled the nib was constructed by carving the shaft of the quill. This required a sharp knife, which gave rise to a 'penknife'. Finally the pages were ruled for lettering.

Next month – the scribe and calligraphy.

Don't forget to keep your reviews coming in. Send them in via your English teacher

February Library Quiz- Romance

In honour of Valentine's Day here are some questions about classic romantic novels

1a Who wrote Jane Eyre?

Emily Bronte: Charlotte Bronte: Anne Bronte: Branwell Bronte

1a Jane is sent away from Gateshead. Where does she go?

Clifford: Lowood: Thornfield: Lytton

1c What prevents Jane marrying Mr. Rochester?

Mr. Rochester lost his money: Jane doesn't love Mr. Rochester:

Mr. Rochester is married: Jane is in love with another man

1d Who started the fire at Thornfield?

Jane: Grace: Adele: Bertha

2a Who wrote Pride and Prejudice?

Cassandra Austen: Jane Austen: Fanny Burney: Helen Fielding

2b Which words open the novel?

It is a fact: It is a family: It is a first: It is a truth

2c With whom does Lydia elope?

Mr Darcy: Mr Collins: Mr Bingley: Mr Wickham

2d What is Mr. Darcy's estate called?

Mansfield Park: Longbourne: Pemberley: Netherfield

Underline the Answer You Believe to be Correct

More House would like to know which of the two books you prefer?

Your name:

Closing date: 26th February 2010