

# More House Messenger

The Library Newsletter - March 2010

It would appear that *Pride and Prejudice* is favoured over *Jane Eyre* – amongst Quiz entrants at least – if you want to have your say about that, either explaining what makes you prefer *Pride and Prejudice* or disagreeing and putting your case for *Jane Eyre* please write your ideas down and hand them into the School Office stating that they are for the Librarian.

The answers to the Quiz were:

- Charlotte Bronte wrote *Jane Eyre*
- Jane was sent away from Gateshead to Lowood
- Jane does not marry Mr Rochester as he is already married
- Bertha started the fire at Thornfield
- Jane Austen wrote *Pride and Prejudice*
- The words 'It is a truth' open *Pride and Prejudice*
- Lydia elopes with Mr Wickham
- Mr Darcy's estate is called Pemberley

This month's clear winner was Nicola Hausdorff (8S) congratulations.

Don't forget to hand your Quiz entry for March on the first day of next term.

*This month's poem was written by pupils of More House. As part of their chosen poetry unit Mrs. Martin's Year 10 group wrote their own poems on the theme of loss. Mrs. Martin says 'We chose favourite lines from everybody's poems and put them together to create a class composite poem ...rather bleak but rather beautiful too, I think.'*

### *Loss*

Betrothed to loneliness,  
I watched the ashes flutter.  
No more pain between these walls.  
Stopped.  
Like a dead beast-  
A hood of tears, drowning in sorrow:  
Jagged edges casting contorted shapes  
Onto the dirt floor

The bricks fall.  
It's gone. All of it.  
Rushing, crashing,  
Gone with the tide, away from our hands:  
Hes-it-ant-ly –  
And I had to stand  
And watch.  
A mass grieving.

I was waiting for something –  
The sound of a voice,  
Reassuring, restless –  
Amazingly, still astounded:  
Until the last word.  
But nothing was said.

Through a forest lost to the world, I run.  
Tumbling, towards the end, the fall.

## The Scribe and Calligraphy

Once the parchment, ink and quills had been made the next stage in the making of a book involved scribes; someone who could write clearly and evenly. This scribe, was almost always a monk. Most mornings after the morning prayers the scribe(s) entered the scriptorium, which was usually located over the chapter house, and worked hunched over at a tiny table while seated on a backless stool. The desk was placed in front of a small window that provided the only available light in the room. No candles or fires for warmth were allowed because of the flammability of the parchment material. Copying fragile, ancient manuscripts was a tedious and mind-numbing task which demanded the scribe's full attention to detail. In a large monastery there would be up to five types of scribes; calligraphers, copyists, correctors, illuminators and rubricators. The copyists dealt with the correspondence of the monastery and might copy some basic work, the calligraphers who worked on fine book production, the correctors, who collated and compared a finished book with the manuscript from which it had been produced, the illuminators, who painted illustrations and rubricators, who painted in the red letters. Princes and emperors commissioned gospel books with many colored illustrations and lettering in gold and silver ink. The emergence of universities throughout Europe created demand for single-volume Bibles, books of law and other texts copied on pages with wide margins for notes and commentary. In the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, private persons bought and used Books of Hours, which contained prayers to be recited throughout the day. Important texts were translated from Latin into French and English. The illustrations of some manuscripts, notable for their quality and originality, were executed by first-rate artists. The most lavish medieval books were bound in covers set with enamels, jewels, and ivory carvings. Today at places such as the British Library we can all see the beauty of work produced by the mediaeval monks – and be very glad that we can obtain a book far more easily.

# *March Library Quiz ~ Identify the Author*

*1 Who wrote Hamlet?*

*Christopher Marlowe: William Shakespeare: Samuel Becket*

*2 Who Wrote Lord of the Flies?*

*John Milton: JRR Tolkein: William Golding*

*3 Who wrote Sense and Sensibility?*

*Jane Austen: EM Forster: Charlotte Bronte:*

*4 Who wrote The Picture of Dorrien Gray?*

*Francis Bacon: Oscar Wilde: Emily Bronte*

*5 Who wrote Brideshead Revisited ?*

*Cassandra Austen: Thomas Hardy: Evelyn Waugh*

*6 Who wrote To Kill a Mockingbird?*

*Harper Lee: John Steinbeck: Ernest Hemingway*

*7 Who wrote The Grapes of Wrath?*

*JRR Tolkein: John Steinbeck: Ernest Hemingway*

*8 Who wrote The Lord of the Rings Trilogy?*

*Thomas Hardy: Charles Dickens: JRR Tolkein*

*Underline the Answer You Believe to be  
Correct and return this sheet to the School  
Office*

Your name:

Closing date: Start of the Summer Term