

GLOBAL READING PROJECT LAUNCH

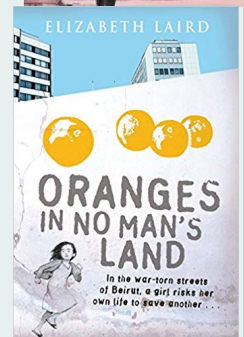
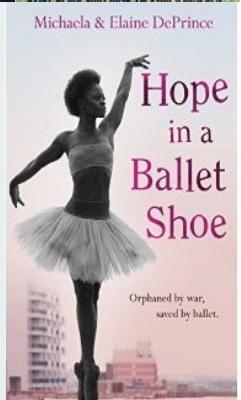
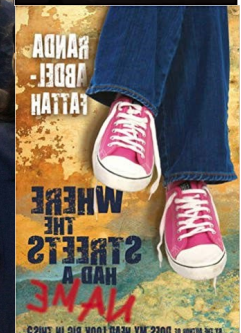
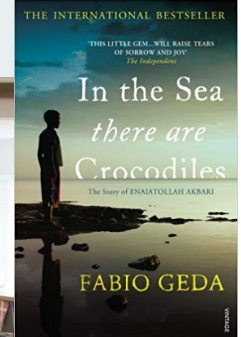
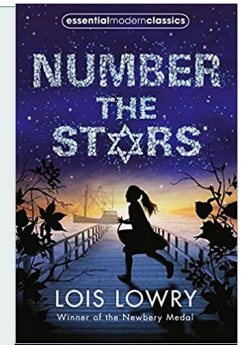
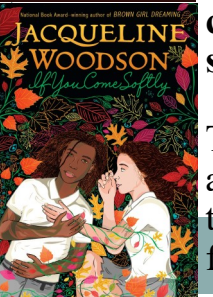
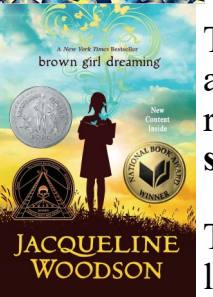
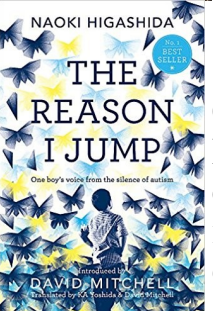
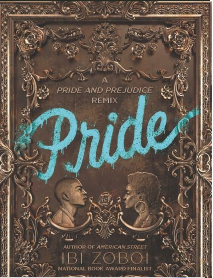
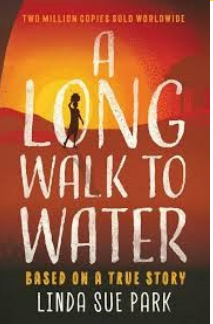
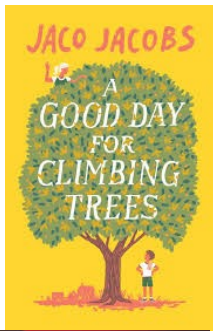


On **Friday 25th January**, we launched our **Global Reading Project**, an initiative organized in response to an increased demand by students for our **LRC** to stock a **wider range of international writers**. In doing so, we hope to encourage our students to read more **widely and diversely**.

The collection, totaling more than **two hundred new books**, in addition to numerous older books, was unveiled to form representatives by our team of **student librarians**, as well as our **sixth form reading ambassadors**.

The members of the **Global Reading Team** worked extremely hard in preparation for the launch, producing numerous **colourful displays** and **book reviews** for their **selected sub regions**.

The event was coordinated by **Ms Spencer** (School Librarian) and **Ms Byrne** (KS3 coordinator). **Ms Waters** led the introductory talks and welcomed two representatives for each form group to the event.



We were delighted to welcome alumna, governor and director of **Wimbledon BookFest, Fiona Razvi** to speak to our students about the need to diversify our reading materials. She went on to speak about the books written by various international writers which had impacted her, kindly donating a selection of her favourite **Global Reads to the LRC, which are listed below. A photo of the donated books can be seen on the right:**



1984—George Orwell **Home Fire**—Kamila Shamsie

Wuthering Heights—Emily Bronte

Chronicle for a Death Foretold—Gabriel García Márquez, **Anna Karenina**—Leo Tolstoy

Small Island—Andrea Levy **To Kill a Mocking Bird**—Harper Lee **The Good Immigrant**—Nikesh Shukla

Love in the time of Cholera— Gabriel

García Márquez, **The Testament of Mary**—Colm Toibin

Useless Magic—**Lyrics and Poetry**—Florence Welch

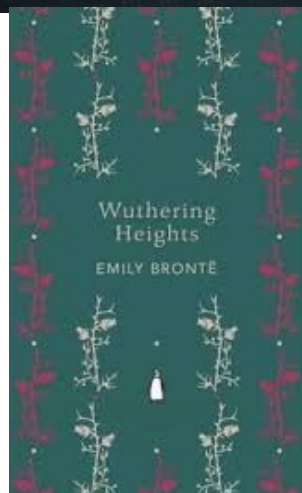
The Global Reading Project Launch event was capped off by some **inspiring book reviews** from the student librarian team, who shared their thoughts on some of the titles they had been reading from the new global selection, including Michelle Obama’s **Becoming**, Pam Muñoz Ryan ‘s **Esperanza Rising**, Marjane Satrapi’ **Persepolis**, Dave Rudden’s **The Forever Court**, Banana Yoshimoto’s **Goodbye Tsugumi**, Sandra Cisneros’ **The House On Mango Street**, Charlotte Fabre’s book

By the end of the launch, many of the new books had already been checked out by eager students!

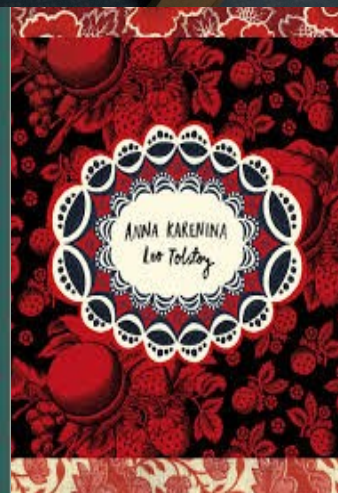
The next stage of the project will include a revolving display in the **LRC**, with a focus on a **new sub-region every month**, a series of talks from writers as well as reviews and book promotions from our **student librarian team** and **sixth form reading ambassadors**.

If you would like to browse some of the collection, be sure to pop into the **LRC** and check out the new **Global Reading List**, which can be found on the next three pages of this newsletter. This list will shortly be available on the LRC page on the school website.

Descriptions and reviews of these books are gradually being added to the LRC page on the school website, as well as author spotlights.



Wuthering Heights
(The Penguin English library edition)



Anna Kareinina
(Vintage Classics)

GLOBAL READING LIST

On the next three pages is a list of various books that we have in the LRC, arranged according to region, category:



Europe

Number the Stars – Lois Lowry (Denmark) **I have lived a thousand years** - (Germany) Anne Frank (the Netherlands) **Mischling, Second Degree** – Ilse Koehn (Germany) **The Book Thief** - Markus Zusak (Germany) **Girl in Red** - Gaye Hicyilmaz (Romania) **The Kommandant's Girl** (Poland) **Dave Rudden trilogy** (Ireland) **Across the Barricades** (Northern Ireland) **The Reader** – Bernhard Schlink (Germany) **Sovay** – Celia Rees (France) **Journey to Munich** – Jacqueline Winspear (Germany) **The Last Train From Kummersdorf** - Leslie Wilson (Germany) **Toro! Toro!** – Michael Morpurgo (Spain) **Annexed** – Sharon Dogar (The Netherlands) **The Boy in the Striped Pajamas** - John Boyne (Germany)



South America

100 Hours – Rachel Vincent (Colombia) **Victoria** (Argentina) **City of the Beasts** – Isabelle Allende (Amazon Rainforest) **The House of the Spirits** - Isabelle Allende (Chile) **Esperanza Rising** - Pam Muñoz Ryan (Mexico) **First Descent** – Pam Withers (Colombia) **The Alchemist** – Paulo Coelho **Gabi, A Girl in Pieces** – Isabel Quintero (Latin American community) **Return to Sender** – Julia Alvarez



Caribbean

- **The House on Mango Street** – Sandra Cisneros (Puerto Rico community in America) **Hurricane** - Terry Trueman (Honduras) **Dancing in the Rain** – Lynn Joseph (Dominican Republic) set in Trinidad **The Cat King of Havana** - Tom Crosshill (Havana) **Wide Sargasso Sea** – Jean Rhys (Dominica) **The Chaos** – Nalo Hopkinson (Jamaica Trinidad Guyana) **Pride** – Ibi Zoboi (Brooklyn but written by a Haitian author) **The Sun is also a Star** – Nicola Yoon (Jamaican writer) **The Red Umbrella** – Christina Diaz Gonzalez (Cuba) **Cuba 15** – Nancy Osa (Cuba) **Clare of the Sea Light** – Edwidge Danticat (Haiti) **Emily Goldberg Learns to Salsa** – Micol Ostow (Caribbean) **Dreams Beyond the Shore** – Tamika Gibson (Trinidad and Tobago) **Dew Angels** – Melanie Schwapp (Jamaica – fictional village).



East and West Africa

- **City of Saints and Thieves** - Natalie C Anderson (Kenya) **Listening for Lions** - Gloria Whelan (Kenya) **Auma's Long Run** - Eucabeth Odhiambo (Kenya) **The Good Braider** – Terry Farrish (Sudan) **A Long walk to Water** - Linda Sue Park (South Sudan) **Homegoing** – Yaa Gyasi (Ghana) **Children of Blood and Bone** - Tomi Adeyemi (Nigeria) **Americanah** - Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (Nigeria and USA) **Purple Hibiscus** - Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (Nigeria) **Akata Witch** – Nnedi Okorafor (Nigeria) **Boy 87** – Ele Fountain (Ethiopia)



North, South and Central Africa

- **Out of Shadows** - Jason Wallace (Zimbabwe) **This Book Betrays My Brother** - Kagiso Lesego Molope (S. Africa) **Leopold Blue** - Rosie Rowell (S. Africa) **The Butterfly Lion** - Michael Morpurgo (South Africa) **A Girl Named Disaster** - Nancy Farmer (Mozambique) **The Other Me** – Suzanne van Rooyen (S. Africa) **The Heart of Darkness** – Joseph Conrad (the Congo) **Tom Pages** – Sally Grindley (Southern Africa) **The Year the Gypsies Came** – Linzi Glass (South Africa) **Abela** – Berlie Doherty (unknown African village) **A good**

East Asia



Goodbye Tsugnumi – Banana Yoshimoto (Japan) **Kafka on the Shore** - Haruki Murakami (Japan) **Norwegian Wood** - Haruki Murakami (Japan) **Chinese Cinderella** - Adeline Yen Mah (China) **Falling Leaves** - Adeline Yen Mah (China) **Revolution is not a Dinner Party** - Ying Chang Compestine (China) **Chinese Cinderella and the Dragon Society** - Adeline Yen Mah (China) **The Kite Rider** – Geraldine McCaughrean (China) **Bronze and the Sunflower** – Cao Wenxuan (China) **First Girl** - Gloria Whelan (China) **The Joy Luck Club** – Amy Tan (Chinese American Immigrant families in San Francisco) **Spilled Water** – Sally Grindley (China) **Sadako and the thousand paper cranes** – Eleanor Coerr (Japan) **The Reason I Jump** – Naoki Higashida (Japan) (autism) **Spirit Hunter** – Katy Moran (China) **Memoirs of a Geisha** – Arthur Golden (Japan)



West Asia

Moon at Nine – Deborah Ellis (Iran) **Persepolis** – Marjane Satrapi (Iran) **The Girl from Aleppo** (Nujeen Mustafa) **Where the Streets Had A Name** – Randa Abdul Fattah (Jordan and Israel) **Oranges in No Man’s Land** – Elizabeth Laird (Beirut, Lebanon) **Kiss the Dust** – Elizabeth Laird (Iraq and Iran) **A Girl Like That** – Tanaz Bhathena (Saudi Arabia) **Dear Blue Sky** – Mary Sullivan (Iraq)



South and South East Asia

The Kite Runner – Khaled Hosseini (Afghanistan) **A Thousand Splendid Suns** – Khaled Hosseini (Afghanistan) **Mahtab’s Story** – Libby Gleeson (Afghanistan)

The Secret Sky - Atia Abawi (Afghanistan) **The White Tiger** - Aravind Adiga (India) **A Passage to India** - E. M. Forster- (India) **The Hungry Tide** - Amitav Ghosh (India) **The Inheritance of Loss** - (India) **Running on the Roof of the World** – Jess Butterworth (India and Tibet) **Secrets of the Henna Girl** – Sufiya Ahmed –(Pakistan) **The Terrorist at My Table** – Imtiaz Dharker () **In the Sea there are crocodiles** – Fabio Geda (Pakistan) **A Suitable Boy** – Vikram Seth (India) **Homeless Bird** – Gloria Whelan (India) **The Village by the Sea** – Anita Desai (India) **Three Indian Princesses** – Jamila Gavin (India) **Tall Story** – Candy Gourlay (Philippines) **Shine** – Candy Gourlay (Philippines) **Inside Out and Back Again** – Thanhha Lai (Vietnam) **King of the Cloud Forests** – Michael Morpurgo (Tibet)

African- American reads

Becoming – Michelle Obama **Hope in a Ballet Shoe** – Michaela de Prince **Piecing me Together** – Renee Watson **Solo** – Kwame Alexander **If you come softly** – Jacqueline Woodson **Beloved** – Toni Morrison **Jazz** - Toni Morrison **Paradise** - Toni Morrison **The Color Purple** – Alice Walker **Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry** – Mildred Taylor **To Kill a Mockingbird** – Harper Lee **I know why the caged bird sings** – Maya Angelou **Brown Girl Dreaming** – Jacqueline Woodson **Everything, Everything** – Nicola Yoon **The Hate U Give** – Angie Thomas **Ghost Boys** – Jewell Parker Rhodes



Mixed

GLOBAL READS KEY

We now have a key in the LRC, which shows which books are set in specific regions, i.e. which books 'belong' to which category. This key is as follows:

.....—EUROPE

.....—CARIBBEAN

.....—EAST AND WEST AFRICA

.....—SOUTH AND SOUTH EAST ASIA

.....—EAST ASIA

.....—AFRICAN AMERICAN

.....—WEST ASIA

.....—NORTH SOUTH AND CENTRAL AFRICA

.....—SOUTH AMERICA

..... - MIXED

You will find a coloured dot on the spine of roughly **three hundred** of our library books. This is a work in progress, and we hope to eventually label all of our books according to the key.

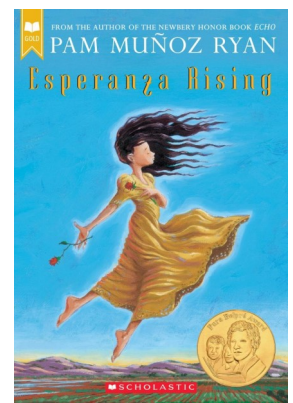
Each coloured dot represents a different region or category e.g. **blue** = Europe, **green**=Caribbean, **yellow** = East and West Africa, **orange** = South and South East Asia, **red** = East Asia, **brown** = African American, **black** = West Asia, **purple** = North, South and Central Africa, **light pink** = South America and **dark pink** = mixed category.

JUNIOR LIBRARIANS REVIEW OUR GLOBAL READS

Esperanza Rising – Pan Munoz Ryan

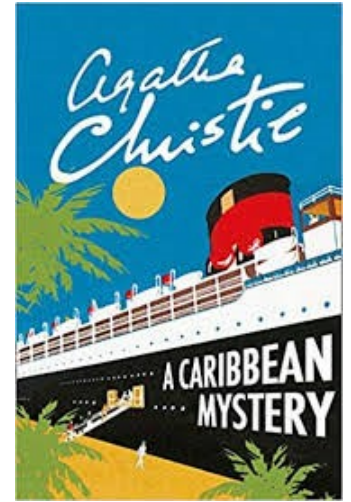
Review by Francisca, 7M

This book is about a girl called **Esperanza**. She is from **Mexico – El Rancho** de las Rosas. Her family was very wealthy and she was living in a peaceful world where everything was going perfectly. Until... the day before her **13th birthday** when her father would usually come home and give **Esperanza** a big hug and prepare a big dinner but this time he didn't. Time was ticking and **Esperanza** and her mother were getting very worried. They waited then they saw a bright light coming from the distance but it wasn't her father, it was the servants who were looking for Esperanza. They told her and her mother what had happened and as soon as they finished telling, she and her mother burst into tears. Her father died. Then they had to face bigger problems, the mayor nearly burned their house and wanted to take their land and crops. So then it was decided the servants were moving into **California** and let Esperanza and her mother come with them. They had to go in disguise. They didn't want the mayor to know that they were leaving them. In California, life was harsh and her mother is nearly sick. Esperanza has to keep on working because her and her mother's life depends on it.



A Caribbean Mystery , by Agatha Christie

A book review by Alice, 9A



This book is the **tenth of thirteen Miss Marple mysteries**. **Miss Marple** is an elderly lady, who is great at listening and spotting important clues. Although she is not your usual detective, she is still a great one.

In this mystery, whilst Miss Marple is spending a nice holiday in the Caribbean, Major Palgrave, another guest on the island, dies suddenly, but Miss Marple thinks it's not as simple as that...

She uses her skills to uncover the mystery, and a possible murderer....

This is an amazing book so far, although I have not quite finished it and I would highly recommend it to anyone who is an adventurous reader or who is particularly interested in crime novels.

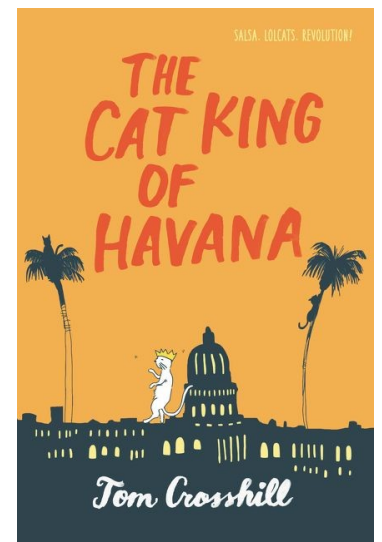
Overall I love this book and I would definitely give it a 5 stars!

“Quote from the book review”

A Book Review from Layla, 9A

The Cat King of Havana, by Tom Crosshill

This book is one of the most interesting romantic teenage books I've ever read. This heart-filling book tells the story of a boy called Rick Gutierrez. It all starts when his girlfriend dumps Rick on his sixteenth birthday for uploading cat videos from his bedroom when he should be out experiencing the real world and like all the other kids his age. Known as “That Cat Guy” at school, Rick isn't cool, and he knows it. He realizes it's time for a change. Rick decides joining a salsa class is the answer because of a girl, of course. Ana Cabrera is a beautiful, smart and talented dancer. The moment he sees her, he falls for her almost immediately! Desperate to impress (like most boys!) he invites Ana to his family home in Havana. The official reason being: learning to dance. The hidden agenda: romance under the palm trees.



Except, Cuba is not all love, fun and salsa. There's a darker side lurking beneath the enthralling land. As Ana and Rick meet his family for the first time, Rick discovers the real reason why his mum left Cuba so long ago. They find romance has sharp edges and they find the real reason to all the questions of long ago.

Knights of the Borrowed Dark – Dave Rudden

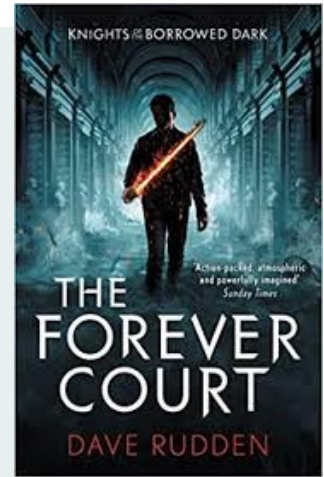
A book review by Sophie, 9T

Denizen Hardwick is the protagonist in this story. The story begins with Denizen living in an orphanage and then going to visit his “aunt”. During the visit Denizen finds out about his family history, what happened to his parents and the Order of The Knights.

My thoughts on the book are that it is an interesting, fast moving story with many unforeseen plot twists. Denizen is an easy to like central character, has a likeable sense of humour and is brave and caring about the characters around him.

The story idea of “Knights of The Borrowed Dark” is very creative because it puts a new twist on the clichéd theme of good versus evil. There are a few scenes in the book where the Knights battle with the dark side and as the reader, you become engaged in the fights. The ending of the book is quite anti-climactic and therefore disappointing as it leaves a lot of questions unanswered. However, this could be the plan by the author as the book is part of a trilogy. The author has done a good job of hooking your interest and you are left wanting answers to questions – the only option available to you is to go and read the next book in the series.

I would definitely recommend this book because it piqued my interest. The story was gripping because it was original in its idea and created a different universe in your mind. The many grey areas of the book, where what is made out to be evil isn't necessarily always what it seems, keeps your attention and interest.



Stolen—Lucy Christopher

A book review by Charlotte, 10B

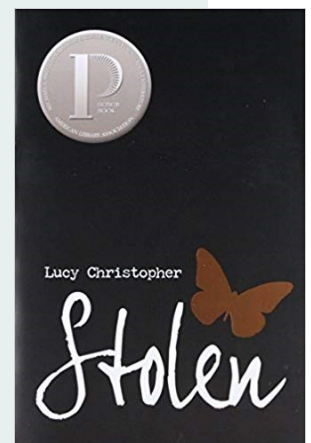
Stolen by **Lucy Christopher** is the story of **Gemma Toombs**, a 16-year-old girl who is kidnapped by a 24-year-old man named **Ty** and taken to the middle of the **Great Sandy Desert** in the Australian Outback. Subtitled **A Letter to My Captor**, the book is told in second person narrative as a letter from Gemma to Ty.

A novel like **Stolen** is unique in its ability to be both horrifying, eye opening, and honest. There is nothing unbelievable about this book; nothing left to a simple plot device or character malfunction. Every word, paragraph, and page is cold and calculated like Ty himself. Many times throughout my reading, I can remember the feeling of my stomach contorting into knots; of fear trickling in as Gemma would try and escape, or think about her death.

Gemma herself is a heroine that is vivid and complex. Her strength and vitality are combined with parental issues and the need for a figure that outwardly shows caring in her life. She is the type of heroine we want to succeed in escaping. Screw the rest of the book. We want her out of his clutches by page one. Her dynamic with Ty, her captor, is also finely tuned. Ty is so sly that even the reader falls for him. The opening scene breeds distrust and contempt, but soon, as he seemingly shows unfaltering adoration and honesty towards Gemma, the reader and the protagonist are slowly seduced into feeling comfortable with him. Liking him. Maybe even romantically falling for him.

Of course, that's only when he isn't doing something clinically insane. With his own past problems and mental instability, Ty is a character that will befuddle yet interest the reader. Do we want Ty to go to jail, or do we want him to convince Gemma to stay with him and become one with the Australian outback?

It's been a long time since I've read a novel so open and brutal in its realism of character and relationships. To the very end, where the reader still cannot comprehend if Gemma's feelings for Ty are genuine, or if she suffers from Stockholm syndrome. It's a puzzle I don't think I'll ever be able to solve, but that's just the kind of feeling I want when I leave a book. The feeling of being able to think about it long after I've read the last sentence.



Recommended Read—Ms Spencer

The Girl from Aleppo—Nujeen Mustafa and Christina Lamb

“In 2015 more than 1.2 million people came to Europe. I was one of them. Much as I like facts, we are not numbers. We are human beings, and we all have stories. This is mine.”

Nujeen Mustafa will certainly make an impression on anyone who reads her memoir, **‘The Girl from Aleppo’**. Told through the eyes of Nujeen, who has cerebral palsy and is consequently wheelchair bound, the memoir documents Nujeen’s escape from her city in Syria, and the traumatic and arduous, sixteen-month-long journey that took her from Aleppo, Syria, to Turkey, to Greece, then on to Macedonia, Serbia, Hungary, Slovenia, Austria and finally, Germany.

Despite having never received any formal schooling, Nujeen’s general knowledge is impressive, no doubt owing to her insatiable curiosity, thirst for knowledge and access to a multitude of American documentaries. As she states in the book ‘... *once I could read, my world was books, TV and sitting on the balcony*’. This love of facts is clearly exemplified throughout the book, and coupled with her resilience, brave spirit and infectious optimism, transforms it from what could have been a dispiriting and distressing read into an uplifting, inspiring and powerful one, that puts a face on the Syrian refugee crisis.

If you have read and enjoyed **I am Malala**, you will certainly enjoy this book. Journalist **Christina Lamb**, worked with both **Malala Yousafzai** and **Nujeen Mustafa** to craft their books: **I am Malala** and **The Girl from Aleppo**, respectively, with both books focusing on experiences of two remarkably courageous and resilient young women.

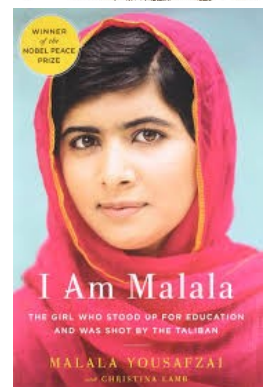
What did our students think of the Global Reading Project launch?

Roma, 8C “*I really enjoyed my time at the Global Reading Project launch as it inspired me to read more books from different cultures and encouraged me to read more than I already do*”

Daisy, 10A “*I thought the Global Reading Project launch was great! It really opened new reading opportunities for students of all years, letting the Ursuline girls explore all the world through a book- a great and exciting opportunity! Thank you to everyone who made it possible, I can't wait to take my first book out!*”

Elyon, 8F “*It was very informative and it was nice to know that our school is open to different cultures and backgrounds.*”

After the Half Term holiday, our LRC will focus on reads from South and South East Asia. Make sure you come to the LRC to look at the collection!



DISPLAYS



Our Global Reads World Map display— a work in progress. Will also help students to learn where in the world different countries are. Students will be able to see either where each Global Read is set or where the book's author has come from.



A temporary display featuring a selection of our **Global Reads**. After the **Half Term** holiday, this will be a revolving display, changing on a monthly basis, focusing on a different region of the world. We will firstly be focusing on South and South East Asia.

THANK YOU TO FIONA RAZVI

The **student librarian team** and the **Sixth Form Global Reading Ambassadors** would like to say a huge thank you to alumna, **Fiona, Razvi** who spoke to a packed audience at the Global Reading Project Launch on January 25th. Fiona co-founded **Wimbledon BookFest** back in **2006**, a charity and literature festival that takes place each **October**, and whose success inspired other arts festivals such as the **International Music Festival**, **Merton Arts Festival** and an **International Short Film Festival**. Fiona spoke to our students about why it's important to diversify our reading, and also spoke about the books that have made an impression on her. It was wonderful for our students to hear from someone who has so much passion for books, reading and communication.

Thank you Fiona!!