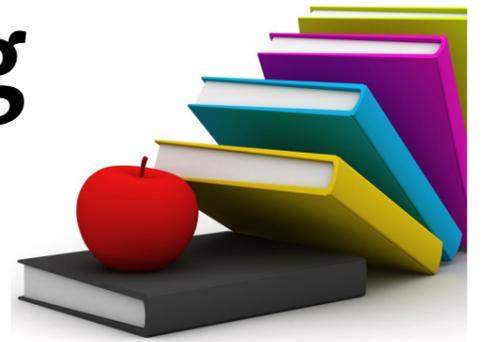


Karen Whitelegg

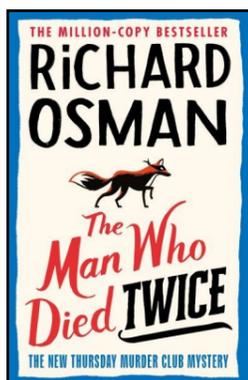
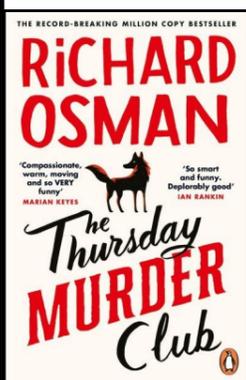
Learning Resource Centre Manager



When do you do your reading?

I read all the time, except in the car. I particularly like to read first thing in the morning when everyone else is asleep, the house is quiet and I'm not interrupted.

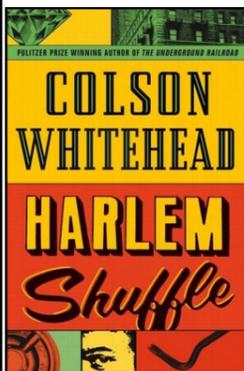
As you would expect from a librarian I read a lot, these are some of my 2021 highlights.



I really enjoy a good murder mystery, not too gory and with a touch of humour. **The Thursday Murder Club** novels by **Richard Osman** fit that bill. Set in an retirement village where the club's members, retired nurse, spy, psychologist and Trade Union boss, are more than match for the murders, drug gangs and thieves that their investigations pitch them up against.



There is something very special about the **Heartstopper** graphic novels by **Alice Oseman**. I was totally swept up in Charlie and Nick's relationship. I was so angry with Nick's friend's homophobic bullying of Charlie, and charmed by the way Nick supported Charlie as his mental health issues and eating disorder forced him into hospital for treatment. Made me laugh, made me cry—loved every page.



The Underground Railway was one of my favourite reads a few years ago, so when I got a chance to read and review **Harlem Shuffle** I jumped at the chance. **Colson Whitehead** brings to life the realities of living in 1960's New York, a place of racial tension and crime; where furniture shop owner, Ray Carney, has to protect his family and business, retain his hard worked for place in society and not get drawn too far into the criminal underworld in which his father was (in)famous.

I could have chosen so many more: **Girl, Woman Other** by **Bernadine Evaristo**; **Hamnet** by **Maggie O'Farrell**; **The Phone Box at the End of the World** by **Laura Messina**; **The Red Scrolls of Magic** and **The Lost Book of the White** by **Cassandra Clare** and **Wesley Chu**; **The Two Sides** series of novellas on contemporary issues, **The Ghost Tree** and **Horseman** by **Christina Henry**; and my list goes on and on...

Any advice for young people re reading habits?

Read widely. Try different genres, new and old texts, prose, poems, fact and fiction, books, magazines, graphic novels/comics, newspapers, paper and e-texts...they say there is a story out there for everyone sometimes it just takes a bit of looking for.