



NEW BOOK
NEW WORLD
ST JOSEPH OF CLUNY LIBRARY

Cluny Library News

Have you been steampunked?

WHY READ?

It's fun

You'll learn

It's stress free

It's relaxing

It's escapism

It's fantastic

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Welcome to Cluny Library News. I am once again looking forward to what I hope is a fun filled and happy year in the library. About two years ago, a student introduced me to the concept of 'Steampunk'. At the time I hadn't heard much about it but after a little bit of research I discovered steampunk is a "genre of science fiction that typically features steam-powered machinery rather than advanced technology". The stories are usually set in Victorian times that incorporates technology and aesthetic designs inspired by 19th century industrial steam powered machinery. Think of 'steam engined' time machines! You could say they are futuristic stories set in Victorian times. I have many books in Cluny Library such as *The Infernal Devices* by Cassandra Clare that can be classified as Steam Punk. I already have the fiction section of the library divided into different genres like murder mystery, fantasy adventure and more. It has made me think of the number of sub genres that is available in literary fiction for teenagers today. For instance there's dystopian fiction, speculative fiction and realistic fiction. Dystopian has been very popular in Cluny Library, especially since the introduction of *The Hunger Games*. It doesn't matter if the book is set in a totalitarian society or Victorian fantasy, most teenagers like to read books that they can emotionally connect with. It is wonderful that teenagers have such a wide array of books to choose from and long may it continue. Ms Dillon



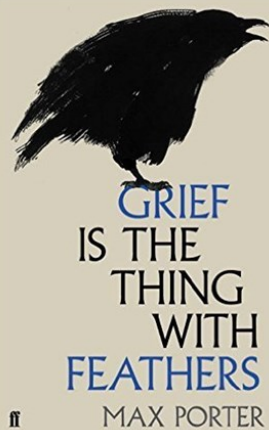
"Steampunk is...a joyous fantasy of the past, allowing us to revel in a nostalgia for what never was. It is a literary playground for adventure, spectacle, drama, escapism and exploration. But most of all it is fun!" George Mann

Clicking into the library

I am delighted to say that the Cluny library website is now up and running for the past while now. To access it simply go to www.clunykillyney.ie/library. The library website provides access to past editions of the library newsletter, the Cluny library YouTube and Twitter account and much more. The *Events and Activities* tab gives a brief overview of past and current events and activities that have happened in the library. I created the *Let's get reading* tab to promote reading for pleasure and to showcase different reading and author websites which might give your daughter some ideas of books she could read. If any students are doing research they should click on the *resources* tab which lists a range of different resources by each subject area. The *research tips* tab has some help-sheets on how to do research such as 'How to evaluate a website' and 'Writing a research question'. I also have various links under 'what's happening' which could range from anything cultural to educational. I hope people find the library website informative and fun. Happy browsing!

Grieving is the thing with feathers: Book Review

Ms Regan: English Teacher



"I remember being scared that something must, surely, go wrong, if we were this happy, her and me, in the early days, when our love was settling into the shape of our lives like cake mixture reaching the corners of the tin as it swells and bakes."

Max Porter, *Grief is the thing with Feathers*

Grief is the Thing with Feather documents the grieving process of a widower and his two sons. The emotionally-torn family live in a small apartment in London. Their home has lost definition and meaning since the passing of the mother. A strange guest comes to stay with them: a crow. The crow is antagonising and forces the family to confront their grief and carve a new life for themselves. The Crow is the most fascinating of all the characters in the book. He is abrasive and relentless as he forces the family to embrace their grief. The crow acts as a medium for the characters to project their worst fears and to form their own language of grief. The Crow talks in riddles and a language similar to that found in nursery rhymes. This language is disorientating and he portrays that our mother tongue is not adequate enough to articulate the raw emotions that are associated with the grieving process. The novel appeals to the Everyman as Porter explores something that each person has been and will be affected by: grief. The novel opens with the all-consuming darkness that grief can place over all the people it touches. Although the novel seems focused on the heavy weight of grief, Porter shows that once the Everyman embraces grief they can take comfort from it. *Grief is the thing with Feathers* portrays that the best friend you can have when grieving is your subconscious and memories of the past. The style of the text is part novella and part narrative poem. Each chapter is voiced by a different character which gives the reader different perspectives on the occurrence of the death of the mother. The title of the novella refers to Dickinson's "Hope is a thing with feather". The poem discusses hope as a bird which sings a song that helps people to strive and overcome all tribulations. The novella takes the readers on a voyage of discovery where the themes of the fragility of life and the inevitability of death are exposed. Death is all-consuming and the greater equaliser - it is impossible to know when the reaper will make a house-call.

Book Bites: 20 Seconds Interview with Ms Marren, Economics and Business Studies Teacher

What are you reading right now?

Notes on a Scandal by Zoë Heller

What was your favourite book as a teenager?

I can't remember a particular favourite one

If you had to choose between books or TV what would you choose?

Books

What are the three books you would take with you on a desert island?

Annapurna, Maurice Herzog - nail biting stuff; *I don't know how she does it*, Allison Pearson - to laugh out loud; *The Big Short*, Michael Lewis - a reminder how crazy the world is.

On a scale of one to ten how much of a bookworm are you?

6—when my life quietsens this will improve

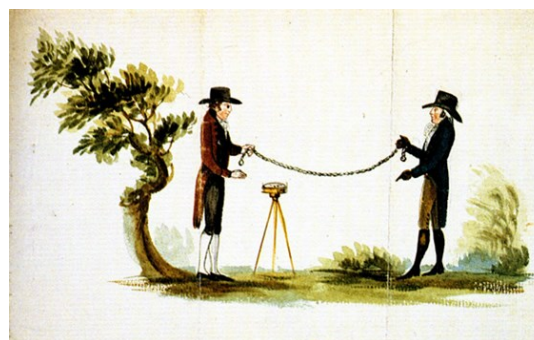
So if I say book what's the first word that comes into your head?

Escape

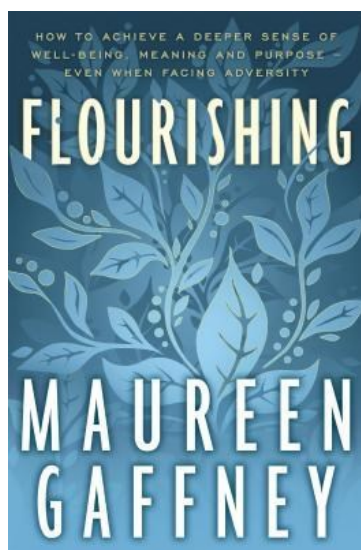
Ireland from Maps

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The National Library of Ireland have made certain exhibitions available in travelling format as part of an initiative to make collections more accessible and available to a wider audience. In September I borrowed 'Ireland from Maps' exhibition for Cluny Library. The exhibition consists of 8 collapsible banners which introduces basic mapping concepts and terminology as well as exploring the subtext behind some of the most well-known maps of Ireland. Giraldus Cambrensis' map of Ireland, dating from c. 1200 placed Rome in the centre of the new world. Richard Bartlett was a military cartographer who produced a series of maps of Ireland and was beheaded in Donegal in 1609 by local people who objected to their land being surveyed. During the Cromwellian Plantation (1649-53), the land had to be accurately surveyed and mapped in order to be able to transfer landownership from Irish Catholics to English Protestants. This task was overseen by the surgeon-general of the English Army, William Petty. In 1824, the most thorough mapping process was commissioned by The Ordnance Survey of Ireland and was completed in 1846. This was the first ever detailed map of Ireland. Today, mapping techniques are also used to display information diagrammatically. Thanks to powerful satellites and the internet, most people have access to highly accurate maps. Map literacy is a fantastic skill for anyone to have especially those who wish to study geography, travel or do some orienteering.



Thinking Books



There is a lot to be said for the simple enjoyment of reading for pleasure; sitting back, relaxing and enjoying your book. I also consider it to be important every once in a while to read a book that will make you think. I intend to promote more of what I call 'Thinking Books' in upcoming library newsletters. In the spring edition of last year's library newsletter I wrote about *The Lucifer Effect* by Philip Zimbardo where he gave case examples of how good people can turn evil in certain situations. That book really did make me think as did *Flourishing* by Maureen Gaffney. I read it a couple of summer's ago and was inspired by it from the very start. Ms Gaffney explains in the book how we can flourish or live our best lives. She presents a mathematical ratio whereby in order to flourish we need to have five positive thoughts for every negative one. The book includes scientific examples, case studies and step by step guides on how we can improve our life circumstances. Be it thinking more positively, finding 'flow' in what we do and/or mastering our emotions. What I found most encouraging about this book is that life circumstances and genetics doesn't account for all our happiness. 50 percent is genetic, 10 percent is life circumstances and the remaining 40 percent is in our own hands. How we think, the goals we pursue and what we chose to engage in day to day can affect our happiness. So no matter what hard knocks we may face in life, there is still potential room for happiness.

"The essence of learning to be grateful is to learn to want what you have." Maureen Gaffney, *Flourishing*

Library Chat with student librarians: Lauren, Gabrielle, Catriona and Caitlin



Hi girls, so out of 10 how much would you say you like reading?

Caitlin: I'd say 55 out of 10 and that might be a bit of an under exaggeration

Gabrielle: A bajillion out of 10

Catriona: I'm just going to say 10 out of 10

Lauren: I'd say 10 to, there's no need to "hyperbole" here

So what age were you when you started to like reading?

Lauren: I was around 6

Gabrielle: Me too, it would have been around 5 or 6

Caitlin: It was 1st year when I really started to like reading. I was read to in primary school but even when I was able to read to myself I didn't get into reading in primary school

Usually most students like reading from primary school. It can be unusual to begin to like reading in 1st year. What made you like reading?

Caitlin: I was terrible at English and my mum said I needed to start reading and now I'm reading all the time.

Do you find that it helped your English?

Caitlin: Most definitely

And what about you Catriona, do you remember when you started to like reading?

Catriona: I always liked reading I don't remember when I didn't

Was there anybody you know that might have influenced you to read?

Caitriona: My parents influenced me a lot

Gabrielle: My poppy who's my grandad. No matter what age I was if something was in the newspaper he's say "look you need to read this, it's really interesting"

Lauren: Not really when it comes to reading I'm a self-driver

Caitlin: My mum

So do you have a favourite book?

Catriona: I can never choose I change my mind every week

So, if you read a really good book this week, you'd say that was my favourite. But if you read a really good book next week, then you could say that was my favourite?

Caitriona: Yeah

Gabrielle: There's too many to choose from. It's easier to give a list of the books you don't like

Caitlin: I always remember the bad ones, not the good ones. You'd have to make a list of all the good books out there

I always get really annoyed if I read a really bad book, I feel my precious time has been wasted. Maybe that's why you remember the bad books better

Caitlin: Yeah, I like to rant about them

Gabrielle: Yes you do

Lauren do you have a favourite book?

Lauren: My one is *I'll give you the sun* by Jandy Nelson

What advice would you give to students who don't like to read?

Caitlin: I'd ask 'what exactly do you do in your spare time?'

Lauren: I think we should say it's really good for school work. It's easier if you read especially for English

Caitriona: I'd say to find a book that interests them for example if you like sport read a sports book or if you like fiction read a fiction book. Don't read anything you're not interested in

Gabrielle: For me it's a great stress reliever and it helps me to sleep. I can drift off into another world and get into character if I want to – like be 'Percy Jackson' or someone

Caitlin, as you just got into reading in 1st year have you found it helped your stress, or what benefits do you enjoy from reading?

Caitlin: If I feel stressful I can find it very helpful. Books and music are the two things that help me with stress. I feel when I'm reading it's the only thing I focus on

Caitriona: It's like you're invested in the book

Caitlin: It could be really cold, or 1 hour could have passed and I'd think what have I been doing for the last hour or so.

So it's like when you're reading you get lost in time

Caitlin: Yes

Ok thanks girls