

DR BASTIN

Chairman of School Governors & General Practitioner (GP)

When did you learn to read?

Age 4yrs

What was your favourite book as a child and why?

Several: Black Beauty by Anna Sewell; the Biggles series by Captain W E Johns; Tom Brown's Schooldays by Thomas Hughes; the Famous Five books by Enid Blyton.

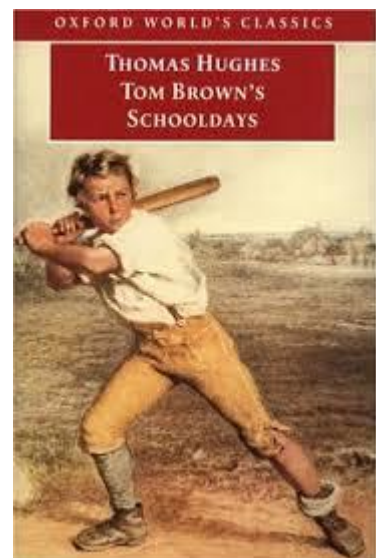
BLACK BEAUTY by Anna Sewell



Black Beauty is a handsome, sweet-tempered colt with a strong spirit. As a young colt he is free to gallop in the fresh green meadows with his beloved mother, Duchess, and their kind master. But when his owners are forced to sell him, Black Beauty goes from a life of comfort and kindness to one of hard labour and cruelty. Bravely he works as hard as he can, suffering at the hands of men who treat animals badly. But Black Beauty has an unbreakable spirit and will, and is determined to survive ...

TOM BROWN'S SCHOOLDAYS by Thomas Hughes

Lively and mischievous, idle and brave, Tom Brown is both the typical boy of his time and the perennial hero celebrated by authors as diverse as Henry Fielding (in "Tom Jones") and Alec Waugh (in "The Loom of Youth"). The book describes Tom's time at Rugby School - from his first football match, through his troubled adolescence when he is savagely bullied by the unspeakable Flashman, to his departure for a wider world as a confident young man. This classic tale of a boy's schooldays under the benevolent eye of the renowned Dr Arnold still retains the appeal for which it was acclaimed on its first publication in 1857.



What sort of reading do you do for pleasure now?

Historical - Escapism

Why does reading for pleasure matter to you?

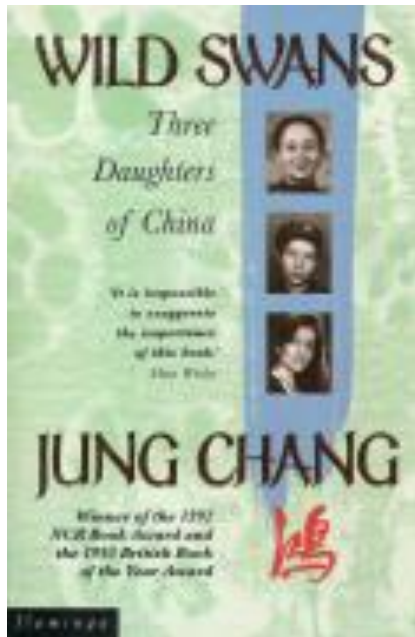
Relaxation !!!

What has been your favourite book of the last five years?

Wild Swans by Jung Chang and Birdsong by Sebastian Faulks

WILD SWANS by Jung Chang

The publication of *Wild Swans* in 1991 was a worldwide phenomenon. Not only did it become the best-selling non-fiction book in British publishing history, with sales of well over two million, it was received with unanimous critical acclaim, and was named the winner of the 1992 NCR Book Award and the 1993 British Book of the Year Award.



Few books have ever had such an impact on their readers. Through the story of three generations of women - grandmother, mother and daughter - *Wild Swans* tells nothing less than the whole tumultuous history of China's tragic twentieth century, from sword-bearing warlords to Chairman Mao, from the Manchu Empire to the Cultural Revolution.

At times terrifying, at times astonishing, always deeply moving, *Wild Swans* is a book in a million, a true story with all the passion and grandeur of a great novel. For this new edition, Jung Chang has written a new introduction, bringing her own story up to date, and describing the effect *Wild Swans'* success has had on her life.

Jung Chang was born in Yibin, Sichuan Province, China, in 1952. She was briefly a Red Guard at the age of fourteen, and then a peasant, a 'barefoot doctor', a steelworker and an electrician. She came to Britain in 1978, and in 1982 became the first person from the People's Republic of China to receive a doctorate from a British university. She lives in London.

Set before and during the Great War, *Birdsong* catches the drama of that era on both a national and a personal scale.

It is the story of Stephen, a young Englishman, who arrives in Amiens in 1910. Over the course of the novel he suffers a series of traumatic experiences, from the clandestine love affair that tears apart the family with whom he lives, to the unprecedented experience of the war itself.

