

## Local People - A Teenage Perspective .....

A small group of students from various year groups at Macclesfield Academy meets regularly to discuss ideas, work together and support each other as writers. The articles they write for us look at life from a sometimes refreshingly alternative perspective!



This month, an enthusiastic piece of writing by Jaime.

### Am I a reader? Yeah, you could say that!

What do you like to do in your spare time? Well, I can spend up to 3 hours a day reading whether it's before, during or after school. Sometimes, I can go through possibly 6 books a month, that's more than a book a week! For some, this seems strange and unethical but, for me, it's relatively normal.

Not only do I tend to read more than most people my age, but what I read is different. If you asked most girls my age, they would reply with romance. As for the boys, they would probably answer with graphic novels and horror. As for me, I'm a twelve year old female and I'm proud to say that my favourite genres of books are fantasy and adventure. Most people my age would say that I should have grown out of liking them. Not me; not ever!

One of my favourite authors is Cressida Cowell. Her books are a well-blended mix of fantasy and adventure and her 12 part book series (How to Train your Dragon), was the first book series I read from start to finish. When I was in Year five, my teacher introduced our class to these books. I wasn't the most active reader back then but the day my teacher introduced us to them, I went home and asked my dad to look out for the first book for me. It wasn't because my teacher told me to read it; it was because my friend said she was going to be the first to read it and I couldn't have that happening! So what is now one of my favourite books, started out as a competition between me and my friend!

Another one of my favourite authors is Rick Riordan. He is the author of the "Percy Jackson and the Olympians", "Heroes of Olympus", "Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard" and "The Kane Chronicles". I originally read the "Percy Jackson" series and then moved onto "The Heroes of Olympus". Both of these book series bring Greek and Roman mythology into the modern world. So once again, it blends both fantasy and adventure with a little twist (no spoilers here!).

I only find time to read by doing it during my lunch time and before I go to bed. No one can put you down for being a reader. Being a reader or reading for prolonged periods can actually increase your vocabulary. This can make you sound smarter and can help you to improve your writing. As well as this, it can help your memory and improve your concentration. No matter how much stress you are under, reading can relieve all of it.

I understand that most people don't get enough time to read. And that's ok. Even if you don't spend hours reading each day, you are still a reader. So hold them books up high and be proud of your favourite genre. What I believe is: everybody is a reader; some people just haven't found their favourite book yet!



**Jaime Duffy is 12 years old and her hobbies include reading, writing, drawing and social network blogging.**