Staff Reader of the Month for September

Gary Vella

English and Film studies teacher at SSC since 2009

Previous experience teaching in Wimborne, (England) a town with a pub 600 yrs old

How often do you like to read?
“I often only get to read for pleasure on the holidays, but as an English teacher I am always reading something! I have also been collecting books since I was a teenager and enjoy getting books from around the world. Last year on the World Challenge trip to Peru I managed to buy some beautiful leather bound books in Spanish. Of course I don’t read Spanish, but they look nice. I have a few first editions but they are hard to find, especially for popular titles.”

What do you like to read?
“I’m not too fussy about what to read. I usually listen to other people’s recommendations as a book is better when you have someone to discuss it with. On plane trips I like reading adventure novels, especially the “Jack Reacher” series by Lee Child. My favourite genre is post-apocalyptic novels such as Cormac McCarthy’s “The Road”. I’m also fascinated by historical fiction that provides entertainment as well as an education on a particular time or place. I loved reading Ken Follett’s “The Pillars of the Earth” and learning about cathedral construction—something that I had never thought about and Robert Harris’s “Fatherland” where a world in which the Nazi regime lasts into the 1960s is the setting for a murder investigation.”
List one book that has left a lasting impression on you, and why it’s so memorable.

“My favourite series, by Thomas Harris, are the “Hannibal Lecter” novels. I love them as Lecter is the ultimate anti-hero, he’s the guy we are secretly cheering for. I’m also fairly nuts about Chuck Palahniuk’s “Fight Club”. I enjoy being shocked and surprised, so love reading anything that ends up somewhere I never expected. As for favourite text, I’m going to cheat and claim an author: George Orwell. On a daily basis I think of his works, especially “Animal Farm” and “Nineteen-Eighty Four” and wonder at how history keeps repeating exactly what he warned us about!