

The Balmain Book Bug Bugle

What really knocks me out is a book that, when you're all done reading it, you wish the author that wrote it was a terrific friend of yours and you could call them up on the phone whenever you felt like it.

J.D Salinger



**Sydney
Secondary
College**
Balmain

A note from Ms Gammie



Welcome to **issue Number #1** of our new reading-related newsletter for Sydney Secondary College Balmain Campus.

For some reason, it seems that lots of young people stop reading as much when they start Year 7.

Why? We don't really know...

Maybe it's the lure of the PlayStation screen or maybe it's just a difficult age where younger books are too "babyish" and grown-up books are too old and boring and talk about feelings too much. Whatever the reason, we are hoping to get our young students reading again.

Each week we endeavour to have some new contributions and recommendations for you.

If you would like to contribute - please get in touch: sian.gammie@det.nsw.edu.au

This Week I'm Reading...

Ms Gammie - English

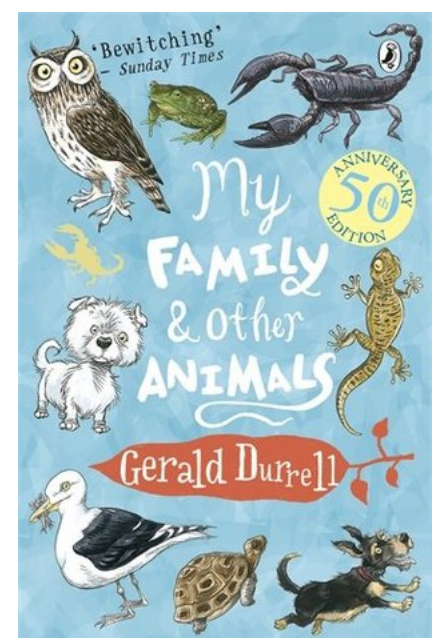
This week, I'm re-reading the classic memoir **My Family and Other Animals** by Gerald Durrell.

It was originally published in 1956 but that doesn't make it irrelevant! In fact, it's now been made into a TV show that you can watch on SBS.

This is a true story of a young boy who grew up to be a famous Zoologist and writer, so this book combines an interesting story about moving countries, some cool animal facts and some funny moments about teenagers torturing their poor mother!

Both parents and students would enjoy this - so why not read it at the same time?

This would suit readers who like:
Science, Animals and Comedy



Critic of the Week

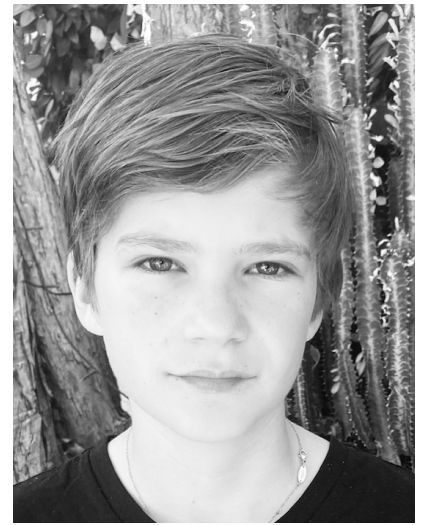
Eibhear Edson Clarke, 7R

This week, Eibhear tells us all about **Ender's Game** and why he recommends it to all age groups.

Title: Ender's Game

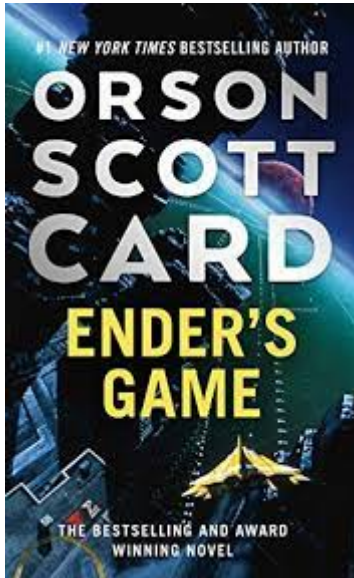
Genre: Sci-Fi

Beanbag Rating:



One of my favorite books would have to be **Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card**, a sci-fi book about a young 6 year old boy who is the only one who can be chosen to save humanity. The novel became a trilogy after the long awaited second and third book.

I think if you like a Sci-Fi book with some lore and background behind it, then it's a great book for you. Some of the themes discussed in the book are, everyone lies, and sometimes lies are more reliable than the truth. I think the best age to read the book is either as a pre teen or maybe an adult in their late 20s or early 30s. I recommend these ages because as a kid reading this book it can be very confidence growing and 'inspiring'. It gives you the energy after seeing the characters in this book pursue a dream they didn't want. And as an adult it allows you to see what some of the deeper meaning in the book is, and reflect on them. This makes it a great choice for those two age groups. Most of the characters in the book are pushed to the side, so there aren't many to relate to, main characters include Ender, Ender's sister, Ender's brother, some of Ender's friends, Space commanders and that's it really. I'd say if I had to relate to a character it would probably be one of Ender's friends, they aren't the main character and don't really accomplish a lot. In conclusion, this book is a good read for people of all ages.



Q & A with Eibhear

What book are you reading right now?

Mother Night by Kurt Vonnegut

If you like Ender's Game, you might also like:

If you like Ender's Game, I recommend the other two books in the series (obviously). But they are also very different from one another and change up the theme every time. A book that can also be similar to Ender's Game in some ways is 1984, by George Orwell.

What are you listening to?

Right now I'm waiting for Kanye West's new album, **Donda**, to be released. It's been delayed again like all his other albums. A good podcast I listen to is called **No Such Thing As A Fish**, where they research random things they find on the internet and compile them into a show.