



The marvel of Marvel

On 25th April 2019, comic fanatics around the world rushed to the cinemas to see *Avenger's Endgame*: the final and long-awaited end to the original Avenger's saga, as well as being the penultimate film in Phase 3 of the marvel cinematic universe. Coming in at a massive 181 minutes, the film is still the highest grossing Marvel film, bringing in \$2,797,800,564 in worldwide box office sales.

The film, which tied up the Thanos storyline, also saw the loss of some of the Marvel favourites, with it being the final chapter of the story for Iron Man, Black Widow and Chris Evans' Captain America. However, the film also opened up many possibilities for future productions, such as the teaming up of Thor and the Guardians of the Galaxy, which was explored in *Thor: Love and Thunder*, and seems to be involved in the next Guardians of the Galaxy film. It left many fans – who weren't comic readers – wondering what Marvel studios were planning next, and if that was the end of the road for their core cinematic masterpieces; such as the Avengers themselves.

However, in typical Marvel fashion, nothing seems to be out the question, with Phase 4 exploring the possibility of the multiverse, allowing favourite heroes from different franchises to be introduced into the marvel timeline. This was done most spectacularly with *Spiderman: No Way Home*, which saw Toby Maguire and Andrew Garfield return to the role of Spiderman alongside Tom Holland. The post-credit scene of the film also suggested the arrival of Eddie Brock

(Venom) who was previously involved in the Sony cinematic universe, and Matt Murdock (Daredevil) who had previously been the titular role in a Netflix TV series. This led to the theory that other characters may be joining the Marvel cast, as they have announced Phase 5 & 6. One of the favourites is the suggestion that the X Men are to be added into the future of Marvel, something which seemed to be promised through Patrick Stewart's cameo as Professor X in *Dr Strange In The Multiverse of Madness*. Fans were also happy to see John Krasinski appear as Mr Fantastic, although many were hoping that Chris Evans could reprise his 2005 role as the Human Torch in (another) remake of *The Fantastic Four*, as his Captain America shield has been handed over to Anthony Mackie. So, while Marvel keeps churning out excellent content, it is clear that they have a plan which spans far into the future; something which I am sure many of us will continue to enjoy for a long time to come.

The announcement of Phase 5 & 6 has also promised us two more Avengers films with new (and returning) heroes so many are excited to see the teaming up of Bucky Barnes and Yelena Belova. The increase in Marvel TV series also allows for many of these stories to be explored in more depth. Of course, the characters, cross-over and multiverse mayhem does mean that explaining the MCU is becoming a bit of a challenge!

Student Review: The Midnight Library by Matt Haig

A student explores Haig's novel, and how one book can change your love for reading

"In this day and age, finding a book that is intriguing and allows the reader to endure the longevity of a novel is hard. This is especially difficult due to the increasing use of TikTok and social media, which tends to provide an alternative entertainment which is stereotypically quicker and efficacious. I definitely fell into this trap which - personally - transformed reading into a chore or some type of English homework. It similarly felt like an effort as I simply could not keep it up for more than a couple of days. But this book completely changed the prospect of reading for me. It was a quick and easy, yet intuitive due to it feeling like I was almost reading a new book every chapter!

I did not just want to recommend this book because it was an enjoyable read but I also wanted to share a book that would hopefully inspire those who are wishing to start reading or get out of their reading slump.

There is nothing more exciting than reading the first chapter of a new book. You are filled with an abundance of new information which allows your brain to replicate this amazing yet unfamiliar world in your head, that the author is displaying with the use of their captivating words. Now imagine this feeling throughout the whole book.

In a between life and death state, Nora finds herself in a large library where, as long as it stays midnight, she has the option to try out all the lives she might choose to live. Throughout the exposition of the book, Nora immerses herself into a selection of ranging lives where she upholds contrasting friends, family and jobs, all varying in different locations and countries. She discovers different pathways her life could have followed depending on just a simple conversation or a completely different university degree. The question of "would my life be better if I decided to do this?" is the most poignant question explored in this novel, and I honestly believe that this book answers this ambiguous yet overwhelming question perfectly. "



THE ADMIN TEAM

SUGGESTS:

Sailing La Vagabonde (Youtube)



This is Us (Amazon)



Inside Man (BBC)



Inventing Anna (Netflix)



Bloodlands (BBC)



SAS Rogue Heroes (BBC)



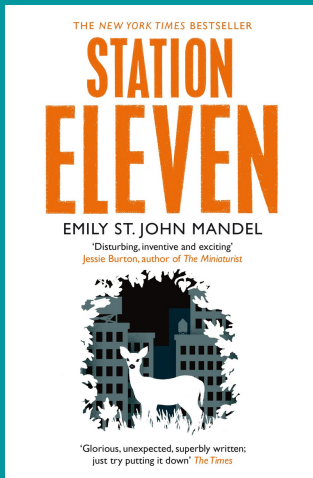
One Tree Hill (ITV Hub)



Dopesick (Disney+)



Mr Heysham
suggests:



I LOVED this book and the TV show is also AMAZING. It was written before Covid, but it is the story of a plague that wipes out 99% of human life. It flashes back and forth between the moment the virus hit and 20 years later. This sounds incredibly depressing (and at times it IS pretty dark, to be fair) but it is also a book about hope, about what's important in life. It's a really easy read, not pretentious or difficult, just incredible story telling that will stay with me for a long long time."

Watch the trailer here:



THIS WEEK'S WIT AND WISDOM:

"To achieve great things, two things are needed: a plan and not quite enough time"

LEONARD BERNSTEIN



From Booksmart to Don't Worry Darling

The success of Olivia Wilde's 2019 coming-of-age comedy *Booksmart* was widely celebrated, with critics and fans alike enjoying Wilde's storytelling and attention to detail. *Booksmart* snuck up on people; it wasn't a film that had lots of hype before it went to the cinema, and was often shown at more independent establishments.

In a complete contrast to this project, Wilde's second feature length directional film *Don't Worry Darling* was a film that people were expecting. It was a "movie, that felt like a movie" as Harry Styles so eloquently put it, and its star-studded cast meant people were desperate to devour the 2 hours 3 minutes worth of story- even if it was something they knew little about.

Following Florence Pugh (*Little Women*, *Midsommar*) and Harry Styles (*Dunkirk*, *My Policeman*) as power couple Jack and Alice, the film appears to be set in an idyllic 1950s desert commune. The commune, which is run by Frank (Chris Pine - *Star Trek*, *Unstoppable*), follows typical 1950s values: the lovestruck women stay at home and make house, whilst the men go out to work and make money- pretty simple at surface level. But, much like the pockets of story-telling gold dust, which Wilde first alludes to in *Booksmart*, the story of *Don't Worry Darling* runs a lot deeper. The psychological thriller delves into the depths of repetition, with even the tiniest moments of detail feeding the wider plot. It is a film that you will think about for weeks to come, as the realisation dawns on you that maybe Pugh should worry, darling.

Don't Worry Darling is now available to rent on Amazon Prime.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

As the weeks progress, we are hoping Culture Vulture will become jam-packed with student articles, recommendations and reviews. If you would like to make your own creative suggestion, or have a piece of work that you would like to see in the next magazine, scan the QR code.



Alternatively, if you would like to contribute an article, film, album, book or podcast review, or have an itching to write a features piece about a current cultural affair, email either theysham@gordanoschool.org.uk or pramsay@gordanoschool.org.uk with your idea and they can point you in the right direction. Who knows - you may see your name in print!

Make sure to encourage your tutors and friends to get involved, and let's make creativity central to the Gordano Sixth Form experience!

