

"I can lose a few hours in a bookshop"



Kephren Sherry, Head of Infants at The Arcadia Preparatory School, Dubai

What are the book(s) you are reading these days?

The Goldfinch by Donna Tartt and *Finding Your Element* by Ken Robinson. *The Goldfinch* is Donna Tartt's second book and I picked it up because I enjoyed her writing so much in the first. I am consciously making an effort to read more female authors, as I tend to gravitate towards books written by male authors. *The Goldfinch* tells the tale of a boy who gets caught in a bombing while at a museum and, in the panic of the blast, steals a painting. The rest of the story is about the butterfly effect that one act has on the rest of his life.

Ken Robinson is an inspiration, and I love everything he writes. He is huge on

creativity, which is something we at The Arcadia Preparatory School are keen on and want to push.

What are the books that changed your life and shaped your outlook?

1984, *To Kill A Mockingbird* and *On The Road*. *To Kill A Mockingbird* was a book I had to read for my GCSE's. Until I read that book, I wasn't really excited by English classes, but this book really helped me rediscover my love of reading. To this day, it is one of the most thought-provoking and evocative books you can find. *1984* was the first book after *To Kill A Mockingbird* that I read of my own volition. It really is 'unputdownable' and further developed

my love for the language.

Which are the titles or who are the authors that you can pick up and read any time?

Ken Robinson, Carlos Ruiz Zafon, Kate Mosse, Iain Banks, John Hegley. I just never tire of their stories.

What are the books you would love to pass on to your children, or any young person, to read and treasure?

The Tiger Who Came to Tea was a childhood classic of mine. I cannot remember how many times I read it, but it was often. It is a fun and engaging book to use when teaching children, as they love the story's simplicity and imagina-

tion. I would also want to pass on *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*.

Any other book-related observations you may have.

From teaching the younger children about the wonders of Eric Carle and the older children about the magic of poetry, to not being able to go to sleep until I have read few pages myself, books are an essential part of my life. I refer to them throughout the day, for reference and for knowledge, and firmly believe that nothing can replace the feel of a book. Even today, I can easily lose a few hours in a bookshop!

— Staff reporter