

# TWO ZERO ONE

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*Artwork By: Anga Butler*



# WHY WE

**I**t's ironic that change is the most constant feature of our lives, yet it is change that generates the most fear, the most anxiety, the most anticipation. So, how can it be that we are frightened by such a necessary and imminent prospect? Change has a very sobering quality of putting a check on our pride, slapping us hard with a reminder to never get too comfortable, and it's precisely that feeling of being out of control, out of depth, out of routine, that results in the familiar adrenaline rush and shivers of discomfort. We fear change because it emphasizes our fragility and inability to be prepared for everything. We fear change like we fear suspicious-looking strangers on dark streets, unaware of their motives and their plans, unaware what the impact of the encounter might be.

At the moment, most of us are on the cusp of new discoveries, their magnitude irrelevant, as comparing the extent of change is like comparing the extent of pain or happiness. The fact is that, we are all are afraid, some more than others. There are those that are changing schools, leaving behind carefully-built networks of friendships and familiar routines. Some are about to receive a cultural shock, imminent when moving countries. Others might be preparing to assume a new title of brother or bride, aunt or adult. And all of these come with novel responsibilities to be taken up; a frightening prospect of living up to yet another set of expectations, of facing unprecedented challenges. Often, it gets so overwhelming that we crumble under pressure; our mind becomes our worst enemy as it transforms incoherent fears into potentially realistic situations, like in a puppet show where the motionless dolls are put into action by the hand of a puppeteer. The cacophony of "what if, what if, what if" echoes relentlessly, permeating even into the most soundproof and protected corners of the conscious. It feels like you are blindfolded and disoriented, about to take a trust fall into an abyss of uncertainty. At those times we are helpless before ourselves, succumbing to fear and convincing ourselves of the worst. We treat the status quo as an equilibrium- a natural and ideal state of existing, refusing to even consider the thought that change might bring such positive novelty that we currently do not have sufficient imagination to comprehend.

Change is often perceived as bad because we focus on losing rather than gaining in its outcome. But that's a matter of perspective; it's down to an individual what the focus is. Almost instinctively, we equate change to worsening conditions, to inevitable decay, to unforeseen and uncomfortable circumstances, but in those moments it's vital to see the bigger picture. We must learn to see past instinctive responses; it's a skill that takes years of cultivation, but the sooner it is mastered, the easier the acceptance of change.

Change is the antidote for stagnation; it's what oils the cogs and screws of the life apparatus. I would never tell anyone to not fear change. That's an unrealistic expectation, and it's like telling someone to stop being afraid of disappointment, or pain, or failure. You simply can't stop. We are nurtured to fear the unknown and the unfamiliar. What I will tell people, though, is to allow change to happen and embrace what it has to offer with open arms. Be cautious and take its fruits day by day, but eventually all new grows old and all novelty becomes antiquity.

*By Anastasia Broder*

# FEAR CHANGE

**D**ust seems to fill the air - it's not necessarily there, but the image of the city seems to induce it: the constantly reshaped ground by excavators, the unceasing, slow motions of cranes, the dullness of scaffoldings covering seemingly similar structures, the buildings soon to be demolished - they are all part of the "UNDER CONSTRUCTION" cityscape of Birmingham.

In the midst of these closely packed-together construction sites, the details of the old city: sumptuous, Victorian buildings, simple, red-brick factories, lonely, Gothic houses, seem to slowly vanish, like old memories in the urgency of the present.

But exactly these beautiful, foggy memories of the past, these things we leave behind, are the ones that make us think "Why all this change?". Why do we constantly destroy, build, reshape the world in which we live in, if the past has already been well crafted? Why does humanity seem to constantly push forward, when things seem to work reasonably well, and life is pretty decent? Why does everyone (including ourselves) ask us to improve, to reimagine our identities... to change?

Making changes usually feels like putting an "UNDER CONSTRUCTION" banner on our lives - we have to excavate the grounds of our comfort zones, to destroy some of the barriers, to put a lot of work into laying down new foundations and to carefully place the bricks in the right place. Once we've decided we want to make a change, our lives become dusty, noisy excavation sites - we have to take risks, we have to assume that accidents might happen, and that we might make mistakes during the construction process. So we fear these projects, these changes.

Birmingham is the perfect metaphor of the unmoderated process of altering, of our constant strive towards change - but it also illustrates the other side of the process. Because once the site gets cleared up and the scaffoldings are removed from the structure, a new building becomes part of the city. The centre of Birmingham is full of buildings incorporating modern architectural styles into its past and this, sometimes seemingly forced, melding of the past and present makes the city unique, gives the city its own personality. The changes that we choose to make in our lives - they are the ones that will later define who we are, becoming indispensable bits of the architecture of our personalities.

Change is ugly. Change is messy. Change makes us cringe, cry and want to give up. But once we leave our fears of failure behind, make the change, do the clean-up and remove with our dirty hands the "UNDER CONSTRUCTION" banner - we are left with our new creation.

*By Anamaria Cuza*

**At the end of the Battle of Delville Wood during World War One just one hornbeam tree remained, the others having been devastated by artillery and warfare. To mark Somme 100 students have written poetry inspired by the last remaining hornbeam tree that still stands today in France.**

## **The View from the Danger Tree.**

Anxiously, nervously they waited,  
Through the cold and damp they waited,  
But when the whistle blows,  
Over they must go.

Men ran if they did not fall,  
Some ran to men who could only crawl,  
Very few had made it to my forest home,  
As the field in front was like a catacomb.

Machine guns roared and bullets ricocheted,  
Off my brittle branches that formed a blockade,  
A barricade for the retreating force,  
Yet the enemies never showed remorse.

Four years I had stood my ground,  
To this bloody field I was bound,  
Since the hellish sounds had begun,  
I had witnessed the sights of World War one.

By: Anonymous

# Alone

Alone I stood,  
through tree roots and mangled wood.

In the clearing which man  
had so barbarically created:  
the whistles, the thud of the impact,  
the creaks as trees were uprooted.

Only shattered and pulverised wood remains.  
Men's screams on both sides filled the air with thick sorrow.

The slight slump as empty shells disappeared  
into the viscous, drenched mud.

Alone I stand.

Nature found a way

to renew the green canopy surrounding me.

Only I remember, only I carry the metallic scars of War.

*James Bateman*





# REVIEW ON CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR

When *the Avengers* was first amassed four short years ago, it felt like a grand apex, the ultimate Marvel superhero event: four huge characters that unite against an immense threat. Since then, the studio's ever-expanding Cinematic Universe has delivered sequels of varying quality, introducing new heroes in their own movies which were never quite up to scratch with Joss Whedon's initial assembling. Until now.

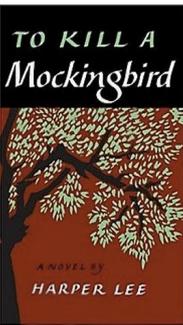
*Captain America: Civil War* is the best Marvel Studios movie yet. It does what the best Marvel movies do: juggling the backgrounds of multiple characters, allowing each one of them their own moment in the story, but also continuing and concluding its own relevant plot.

Who needs a villain when you have Steve and Tony? Both are protagonists. Both antagonists. And drawing other power-people to their cause in surprising ways. Here you get Ant-Man v Spider-Man, Hawkeye v Black Widow, Scarlet Witch v Vision, The Winter Soldier v Black Panther and Captain America v Iron Man, all rolled into one. And that is what you call the ultimate Marvel superhero event.

*By Demi Olugbenga*

# Top Five 'Coming of Age' books

Approaching the end of the year, and for some the end of a school career, we can all get a little sentimental. Here are my favourite coming-of-age books, spanning from beloved classics to iconic YA's.

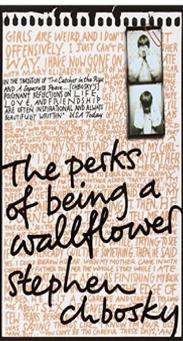
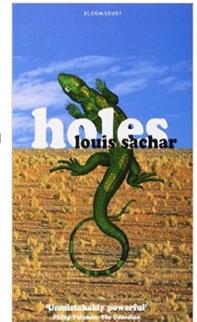


## Inspiring classic: *To Kill a Mockingbird* – By Harper Lee

I have this book to thank for inspiring my sense of justice and love for books. I read it for the first time when I was around ten, and have since re-read it, regarding it from a completely different perspective; I'm sure I will go on to read it many more times. Scout Finch, the protagonist, lives in Alabama with her brother Jem and doting father Atticus. The book accounts parts of her childhood, including a devastating trial that Atticus, an esteemed lawyer, was involved in. A tale of life in the South, justice and morality, it's one for the ages.

## Humorous and thought-provoking: *Holes* – By Louis Sachar

This is another book that was a big part of my reading 'career' – I've read every one of Sachar's books at least once. There's something fantastic about a well-written tale of misfortune, and this one's no exception. The Yelnats' curse was passed on to Stanley, who was unjustly sent to a juvenile detention centre because he was in the wrong place at the wrong time. At Camp Green Lake, where he's sent, there's no lake – only countless holes, where boys have dug holes to 'build character'. Soon, Stanley and his newfound friends realize that the holes aren't just for character improvement – the warden is looking for something, and the boys embark on a mission to find out what. A funny, creative story of punishment and redemption, *Holes* is the quintessential light read for all ages.

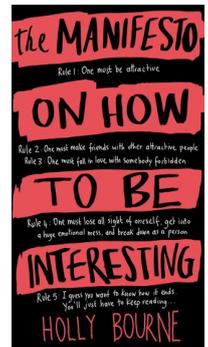


## Eye-opening and reflective: *Perks of Being a Wallflower* – By Stephen Chbosky

Part of the reason that I'm so crazy about this book, and film, is that I really relate to it; I could see myself in Charlie, the protagonist – and I know that a lot of people feel the same way. An awkward, introspective freshman (in high school – equivalent to a Year 10), Charlie is a wallflower attempting to find his way around the uncharted realms of new friends, parties, dating and mixtapes. But his story is deeper than that, as the reader quickly deduces, because he has deep-rooted, previously unaddressed issues that have had a huge effect on his life. You'll love, laugh and cry reading this moving book.

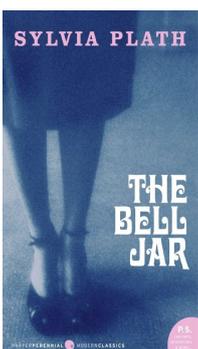
## Entertaining: *The Manifesto on How to be Interesting* – By Holly Bourne

I owe much of my perspective and knowledge on popularity and 'being interesting' to this book, which I have read so many times I've lost count (that seems to be a recurring fact in this list – take it as a good sign). The protagonist, Bree, takes it upon herself to become more interesting to write better books – she's an aspiring - in her words 'failed' - author whose books have been rejected by every publisher in the country. She's also a cynical teenager who's considered a nobody at school. Determined to leave behind her insipidity in search of popularity (for book success), Bree resolves to become someone worth reading about, infiltrating the popular set and becoming a new, more confident – and bitchier – version of herself.



## Haunting and enlightening: *The Bell Jar* – By Sylvia Plath

'It was a queer, sultry summer, the summer they electrocuted the Rosenbergs, and I didn't know what I was doing in New York.'



*The Bell Jar* is an iconic, semi-autobiographical account of Esther Greenwood's slide into depression and her consequent rehabilitation. Famed for its wry humour and intense, credible descriptions of mental illness, Plath's only novel questions the roles of women in society and the meaning of life. This book is deeply haunting – I'm not sure I truly understood everything that was going on, or picked up on every metaphor, but the story and the characters 'spoke to me' in a direct way; I felt guided by the book. Famed as a rite of passage, this book is a must-read for those looking to branch out into the world of 'readable' classics about being young.



## Change after Auschwitz Visit



*By Libby Guillamon*

There is an age-old debate about whether people are born naturally bad, or whether nurture plays a greater role. I believe that whatever your feelings on this, nature versus nurture, if good exists then we must choose to believe in it and encourage it. It is our duty as people, to be more than just idle bystanders. This is what the LFA trip to Poland taught me, and this is my changed perspective on life.

Of course we all know certain things are good and bad. Famine, global warming, poverty- these are all bad things. However with this easy categorisation we become detached from the reality of the situation, and we no longer empathise or feel responsible for these major issues. I think that seeing the Auschwitz concentration camps really brought this absent attitude into perspective for me.

As I questioned the nature of a human kind that could brutally slaughter based on nothing but prejudice, I began to feel this newfound anger, not at simply the Nazis and their heinous crimes, but also at my own hypocrisy. I have always, probably just like you reading this article, believed in human rights and equality. I thought that, because I was aware of an imperfect world, I was doing enough- but this is only the first step. Inspiring people and becoming more educated via discussion is an extremely powerful and important tool, but it is what we do with this information that counts.

I am not saying that everyone needs to do months of charity work in a poverty stricken area, I simply think we should take a look at how complacent we have become. A generation of technology and machinery breeds detachment from real life. Even the smallest amounts of contribution can make a difference, whether that be helping with fundraising at school like the shoebox campaign, or donating to charity or anything that could help even one person.

This is my changed perspective after seeing Poland, seeing a place where over one million people died at the hands of relatively few. It is not naive to think you can do something good in this world, after all:

# Insider's Guide to Ibiza

By Anna Spenner-Hernandez

Ibiza is a Spanish island in the Mediterranean Sea. Mainly known for its clubs and electronic music, it is a hotspot for people, especially the English, in search of a week of blurred memories. Born and bred there, I've come to realize how unknown it really is. I have the privilege of knowing the insiders' secrets of Ibiza, which are unheard-of by most tourists; these are what make Ibiza truly special. Of course the parties are incredible, but if you want to relax or have had enough of the loud music, these are some places to discover.

## Aguas Blancas

This beach is renowned for its beautiful clear water and unusual rocks leaning over the beach and in the sea. Unfortunately, the parking is horrible as it is always full and tourists largely take over the beach. However, there's another spot which is less crowded and far more enjoyable - if you drive another 2 minutes along the road without turning into the main Aguas Blancas camino, you will find a small, rocky hard shoulder where you can stop the car; in front there will be the smallest pathway - easily missed if you don't look closely. This 5-minute path will take you down to the same beach, but slightly further away from all the tourists. You will end up on the nudist side where everything is calmer, and there is also mud nearby which you can use to exfoliate your skin (by covering your body with it). If you need to go over to the touristy side for one of the 2 bars, then it is an easy 2-minute walk across the beach. Here you can enjoy the real serenity of Aguas Blancas to its fullest.



## Cala Conta:

Ibiza's light is very special and with its clear skies the sunsets are stunning. My favourite place to see the sunset is in Cala Conta, which is a beautiful stretch of sand with rocky coastlines, sand dunes and coves. As the waters are so inviting, you will want to spend most of your time there, so the small area of sand won't be a problem. When the sun sets, crowds will gather on land, and boats will be anchored in the sea to see the soothing spectacle. There are also two restaurants on the rocks with unobstructed views of the sunsets too, so you can have a meal, drink or both with the sight.

## Salinas:

This beach is one of the biggest and most famous beaches in Ibiza. In the high season the sand is strewn with people, towels and parasols; I find walking to the end of the beach to the left and past the sand over to the rocks is much more pleasant. There are tiny sandy coves with natural pools, surrounded by rocks - these offer a sense of protection and privacy, blocking most of the wind - if there is any - and granting serenity. If you grow bored of lying down, you can venture into the sand dunes that lie behind; take a walk surrounded only by nature. It is simple and underrated - no one does it.

## Atlantis:

Atlantis is the remains of incredible engraved drawings on rocks and mini mazes. Although the trek there and back is exhausting, the way the immense cliffs and sand dunes enclose on this

sunken city makes it worth it. You can also take part in rock climbing, but if you prefer something less daring, you can explore its waters. 'May everyone be happy in life' is a Japanese wish written under an Asian Deity on one of the stones – this was probably from one of the many hippies that may have lived there during the hippie movement in the 60's.

#### Dalt Villa:

Dalt Villa is the prime cultural experience of Ibiza. 'Dalt Villa' actually means *upper town*, which makes sense - it is an area made up of cobbled streets winding up to the top of a 2500-year-old castle. Both entrances consist of a slope through arches, flanked by mighty Roman statues. You can sit in the *Plaza de Vila* or continue ascending the streets overhung by gothic Catalan buildings and full of gift shops and art galleries. At the top you can take in the wonderful panoramic views of Ibiza or across the sea in Formentera. If you want to dive deeper into the Ibizenca culture, there are a couple of museums, which contain the world's most impressive Roman collection, with artefacts on display exclusively found on Ibiza.



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## Still I Stand

Through death I have pulled through,  
Crawled my way through scenes of destruction  
I have seen before my black, bruised eyes.  
Yet still I stand.

Once fresh, perfect and tranquil,  
Now a symbol of exhaustion and deadly wounds,  
Mourned over by wailing women, whose innocent children have been brutally lost.  
Yet still I stand.

Isolated, every living body around me obliterated,  
Dreams, hopes and ambitions shattered in the detonation of a shell,  
All thoughts locked in a chamber of deadly secrets, forever kept since those days.  
Yet still I stand.

Devils wood, they called it,  
Parallel to the crying seas of agonising pain,  
No awful nightmare, nor sickening thought can reflect the true horror,  
Of what desolation happened at this sombre place.  
Yet still I stand.

By Francesca Mellor

# The Taliban Shuffle: Whiskey Tango Foxtrot – By Kim Barker



Non-Fiction, Post-9/11

*Whiskey Tango Foxtrot*, now a major motion picture with Tina Fey at its helm, is a foreign reporter's account of her time in Afghanistan and Pakistan. It includes political commentaries, lessons she learnt and incredible stories – a lively mix of personal and work-related experiences, describing interviews with important political leaders and drunken nights out in the 'dry' Afghan city of Kabul. Through her time with US soldiers on 'embeds', visits to villages, Barker reports on the lives of normal people – or as she put it, "the smaller stories about what happens in a country when the West rushes in there after being kept out for so long". Her move to Pakistan halfway through the book offers another perspective on the Taliban and the 'forgotten war' – and clearly displays her preference for Afghanistan over its unbelievably corrupt, damaged counterpart (although it seems Afghanistan gives Pakistan a run for its money).

After reading this book, I gained a newfound respect for journalists, especially foreign reporters, who often risk their lives to deliver news; like many professions, the majority of journalists are passionate about their jobs. But I don't think it was this that

drove Barker in her 'quest'; it wasn't fast, emergency information that she really wanted to provide – especially as it was this that repeatedly interrupted her much-needed holidays! Despite her commitment to 'reporting the truth' and the buzz that comes with it, she seemed far more interested in the bigger picture: the long-term effects of war on citizens, and the problems that hinder the country's progression. Perhaps it's easy to criticise others, but Barker seemed especially talented at pointing out where things were going wrong in Afghanistan, with Afghans and Westerners alike.

I also learnt a lot about the complex tribal system of Afghanistan, which is an integral part of politics and life in the country. Similarly, I had a new understanding for the corrupt, volatile political landscape in Pakistan, with its destructive military leaders and over-powerful intelligence agency; reading about a place that is so different was quite an eye-opener. Reading from an individual's perspective enhanced my appreciation and knowledge for the subject – far more than an impersonal newspaper article ever could. With her dark humour and satirical tone, some would argue that Barker isn't your typical woman on an 'Eat-Pray-Love' journey abroad – but although I agree, her optimism and resilience are also apparent, and contribute to her charming voice.

As with many books, and especially non-fiction ones, I was a little slow to 'get into it' and find myself wanting to pick it up; however, once I did, I relished the escape it offered and Barker's entertaining narrative. It was especially well-written (which is maybe to be expected from a print journalist, but nonetheless); a funny, easy-to-follow 'travel diary' with sophistication and wit.

Especially after the story picked up, the book didn't seem long at all (but because I read it electronically, it's hard to say.) A book for those looking for a perspective on life in 2000s Afghanistan and Pakistan combined with a good-quality travel memoir. Basically, if you like substantive memoirs then you'll like this.

# Why do we fear change?

Change.

People often fear change because they have become accustomed to something or they fear that they will become less important or lose control. The uncertainty of change can have an effect on the way people perceive the idea of change.

Good leaders enact change and appear to think optimistically about it. Leadership is all about change; if something isn't right they have to change it. Take the Government for an example: the Prime Minister has to make decisions that would hopefully change our country for the better and all the politicians and people living in England have to accept it whether they agree with it or not. The challenge for David Cameron is to make changes and persuade the country to support those actions. What a responsibility!

As humans, we have to deal and come across change every day. Whether that change is simply a new menu at the school dining room or something much bigger like moving to a new city and not knowing anyone there. Change can put lots of people out of their comfort zones and lots of people prefer to know things than to adventure change. As the saying goes, "better the devil you know than the devil you don't know."

Change can also be a surprise and that unsettles lots of people. When change is sprung onto someone without them contemplating the consequences or having the time to prepare, people often choose to fear change because it is much easier to say *no* than *yes*. People don't realise that change can be a good thing too, not all change is bad.

The reality that change can make everything seem different, makes people nervous. People like routines and habits, and change creates a crack in the routine making people feel uncomfortable and unnerved. The change also could be confusing and so making things remain the same and familiar makes people feel more calm and relaxed because they know what is going to happen next.

Accepting change could be a good thing. Change may be uncertain and has the power to make people feel uncomfortable, but is change all bad? In my opinion, the answer is no. Change can create new and better opportunities for people to discover and it can open doorways for more chances to be taken. Often people don't realise that change has a "ripple effect"; at first the change could be big in their lives but in time the change will start to fade and soon it will no longer be recognisable.

Ultimately it is about choice. Change will carry on being feared but there is no need to fear it because it is inevitable; people choose to fear it. Personally, I believe that change is a good thing. If you can be open-minded towards it, you will learn that change isn't all that bad. We should embrace change.

*By: Gabriella Brown*

# A Valediction

Self-expression is the basic human need familiar to all without exception. This project, *Two Zero One*, became an embodiment of that for Maddy, Alia, and me, and not for us only; our main aim was to establish a zone to appraise the conglomeration of ideas and opinions found in the unique community of Bromsgrove School, available to all wishing to get involved. In my opinion, there can never be too many opportunities to extend self-expression, hence I greatly encourage both the School and the students to continue creating new means of addressing issues or sharing views, as this will only encourage cooperation and mutual respect.

Hopefully, this project will continue to flourish over the years, gathering controversial articles, incredible artworks, captivating reads, and informative reviews. Bromsgrove School brings together such diverse and interesting people that I cannot see the vent of creativity ever running out. I could not have asked for a better team to work with- both Maddy and Alia were indispensable in essentially starting the project, while without James's computer skills I doubt we would get anywhere at all.

But the biggest thank you goes to all that have contributed and took their time to submit a piece, no matter how small or big; our biggest fear when launching *Two Zero One* was the prospect of rejection, but it was fantastic to see so many people engage despite numerous other commitments.

Maddy and I agreed that leaving the School is a bit easier knowing we have left a little piece of us behind. Thank you again for this amazing experience!

Anastasia Broder.

