



Thank you to everyone who joined us for our second meeting. Our book of choice was Charlie Mackesy's ***The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse***, and it sparked a warm and thoughtful conversation on the centre theme of the afternoon which is **kindness**.

ABOUT THE BOOK

Mackesy's illustrated fable follows four unlikely companions on a journey through a wide, wintry landscape. Through drawings and sparing words, they talk about fear, loneliness, belonging, vulnerability and hope. It is a short read, but it invites slow, repeated reflection.

POINTS WE EXPLORED AND DISCUSSED

Kindness as a quiet strength. The characters show that being kind is not weakness. It takes courage to be gentle in a world that often rewards the opposite.

Vulnerability and asking for help. The Boy's honesty about his doubts is met with acceptance, not judgement.

Kindness toward ourselves. Much of the book turns inward, reminding us that self-compassion is where outward kindness begins.

Small acts, lasting effect. Simple gestures such as listening, sharing cake or staying alongside someone can matter much more

Friendship as shelter. Each character offers something different, and together they are stronger.





PAIRED READS

To deepen our conversation, we paired Charlie Mackesy's illustrated book with two books that approach kindness and hope from very different angles.

A DIFFERENT KIND OF POWER BY DAME JACINDA

ARDERN - *Recommended by Caroline*

Ardern, the former Prime Minister of New Zealand, reflects on her life and leadership, and on the idea that empathy and kindness are not obstacles to strong leadership but part of it. Her memoir asks what it means to lead with compassion, particularly in times of crisis, and to hold on to your humanity in public life.

REASON FOR HOPE: A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY BY DAME

JANE GOODALL - *Recommended by Ratu Nida*

Goodall, the English primatologist and anthropologist, shares the beliefs and experiences that shaped her life's work, from her years of research among chimpanzees to her faith in the human spirit and the natural world. It is an enduring reflection on why hope remains possible, and why it is worth acting on.

Threads that connect all three: courage in gentleness, the strength of empathy, and the conviction that individual choices can ripple outward.

UP NEXT: TWO SHORT STORIES

For our next meeting, we are moving from reflection to a little literary provocation. Both stories are short and can be read in one sitting.

"THERE WILL COME SOFT RAINS" BY RAY BRADBURY

***"THE ONES WHO WALK AWAY FROM OMELAS" BY
URSULA K. LE GUIN***

The short stories are available in our CFS Book Club Whatsapp Group. Please contact Caroline of Bibi if you wish to be added to the Group Chat.

SAVE THE DATE

Next Book Club meet

Date: 28 November 2026

Venue: To be confirmed

We will send details as soon as they are finalised. Please keep a lookout.

NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME

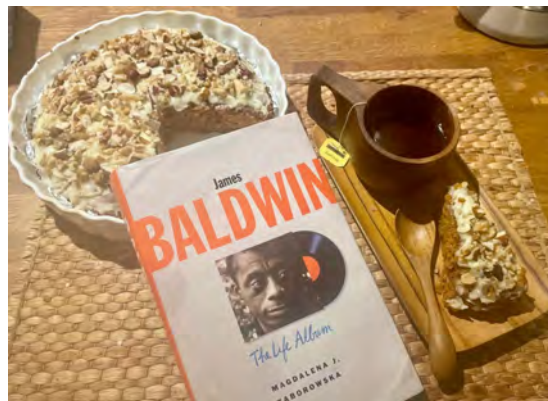
Our book club is open to everyone, whether you are a lifelong reader or picking up a book for the first time in years. We welcome new members with open arms.

Interested in joining? Please contact Bibi (0412 613 073) or Caroline (0400 128 311)

Happy reading, and until November, be kind, with best wishes, Caroline



Favourite reading nooks to favourite blend and pastries!



Thank you Ratu Nida, with your favourite book and cake



Thank you Ryan, with your favourite reading corner, Macquarie University library.



Thank you Bernard, with your favourite reading companion