

Mini Newsletter March 2020



HHR in the time of Corona

Our last newsletter began with a report of the bushfires. Little did we know what was ahead! It's hard to imagine how those who were and are still directly impacted by the bushfires are managing with this new disaster. Our best wishes go to you all.

At least, as HHR enthusiasts, the social distancing we're all practising could give us more time to read her work, and even have and share a bit of fun on the way. Read more to find out how:

Some of you may have seen the article (reproduced below) from Lithub, *The first lines of 10 classic novels, rewritten for social distancing*, by Jessica Gaynor. Imagine doing the same with one or more of HHR's novels: *The Getting of Wisdom*, *Maurice Guest*, (probably not *Australia Felix*), *The Way Home*, *Ultima Thule*, *The Young Cosima*.

Have a go at rewriting the openings of one or more of HHR's novels and send your work to Janey Runci at j.runci@bigpond.com or Graeme Charles at graemejcharles@gmail.com and we'll publish them in an online newsletter for all to enjoy.



The first lines of 10 classic novels, rewritten for social distancing.



By **Jessie Gaynor**

March 16, 2020, 12:43pm

Of course, books can be a balm in these terrifying times—but as the **surge in sales of plague-related literature** reveals, sometimes all we want to read are books that speak *directly* to our terrifying times. Well, friends, with a little elbow grease, any book can be a coronavirus book. Behold: the first lines of 10 classic novels, rewritten for these times of social distancing.

Mrs. Dalloway

Mrs. Dalloway said she would buy the flowers herself. Then she remembered the florist was closed. And the party was cancelled. Finally, some time to rest and reflect on her marital choices.

Swann's Way

For a long time, I went to bed early. I wasn't even that tired. It was more like, hey: here's a good way to pass the time.

Middlemarch

Miss Brooke had that kind of beauty which seems to be thrown into relief by the same leggings and sweatshirt she has been wearing for the last five days.

Notes from Underground

I am a sick man... I am a spiteful man... I am a man who is going to McSorley's to celebrate St. Paddy's Day!!!

The Bell Jar

It was a queer, pandemic spring, the spring they cancelled all the orgies, and I didn't know what I was doing in New York.

The Great Gatsby

In my younger and more vulnerable years my father gave me some advice that I've been turning over in my mind ever since. "Whenever you feel like going to a restaurant," he told me, "just remember there are people in this world whose immune systems haven't had all the advantages yours has had."

Moby-Dick

FaceTime me, Ishmael.

The Hobbit

In a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit. He planned to stay there indefinitely in order not to make the lives of essential healthcare personnel more perilous.

Jane Eyre

There was every possibility of taking a walk that day, as long as we kept six feet between us and the others on the path.

Pride and Prejudice

It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be hoarding toilet paper.

Membership Renewal

Membership renewals of \$20 are due on or after January 1 each year.

The bulk of the Society's activities rely on these annual membership fees. They matter to us!

Large individual donations cover the Henry Handel Richardson Fellowship every two years, and a few smaller donations also provide valuable income, but it is the membership fees that keep us going and allow us to branch out in the ways we promote the reading and enjoyment of HHR's work.

You don't need to be a member to get the newsletter.

Pay by direct deposit into our bank account and remember to identify yourself on the deposit by name.

BSB: 803070 Account no: 77605

If necessary you can pay by cheque made out to Henry Handel Richardson Society of Australia, c/o Treasurer, 86/80 Trenerry Crescent, Abbotsford, Vic, 3067.

Please be patient. The cheque may not be deposited for several weeks.

New members

If you'd like to become a member you need to fill out a membership application. This is a standard process for all organisations incorporated in the state of Victoria, as we are.

You can find a membership form on the website:

www.henryhandelrichardsonsciety.org.au

or email the membership secretary: helen.macrae@bigpond.com and have one posted to you. If you have any questions about membership call Helen on 0401 901 558