

St Wilfrid's Book Club

A book club for staff, students, and parents/carers.

This week's book club read is:

The Angel
By Aminatta Forna

Read the book and explore the wider knowledge themes on the next page.

Join the private St Wilfrid's Book Group on Twitter:

[@StWBookClub](https://twitter.com/StWBookClub)

A weekly chat about the book/chapters being read will take place at 5.30pm each Monday for half an hour.

Send your reviews of the book to:
virtualllearning@st-wilfrids.org

The screenshot shows the Worldreader app interface for the book 'The Angel' by Aminatta Forna. The top navigation bar is blue with the 'Worldreader' logo and a search icon. Below the navigation bar is a dark blue banner with the title 'THE ANGEL' in white, a silhouette of a winged figure, and a yellow eye icon. The book title 'The Angel of Mexico City' and author 'Aminatta Forna' are displayed below the banner. The interface shows 614 likes and 18,804 opens. There are buttons for 'LIKE' and 'ADD TO MY BOOKS', and a green 'Start reading' button. A toggle switch for 'Save for offline reading' is visible. The bottom section contains a synopsis: 'Set in the streets of Mexico City: the story of a boy, a runaway angel and a stray dog.' and a paragraph of text: 'Malaika is an angel. Well, he's an angel-in-training to be exact. The only trouble is that jobs for angels are growing scarce, so the new intake spend their time taking classes in astronomy, flight and minor miracles. One day Malaika finds a hole in the clouds and for the first time in his life he sees the Earth. The Earth is beautiful, but the cities seemed vast and forgettable, until something catches'.

Set in the streets of Mexico City: the story of a boy, a runaway angel and a stray dog.

Malaika is an angel. Well, he's an angel-in-training to be exact. The only trouble is that jobs for angels are growing scarce, so the new intake spend their time taking classes in astronomy, flight and minor miracles. One day Malaika finds a hole in the clouds and for the first time in his life he sees the Earth. The Earth is beautiful, but the cities seemed vast and forgettable, until something catches Malaika's eye amid the streetlights and apartment buildings: a young boy feeding a homeless dog.

Aminatta Forna's *The Angel of Mexico City* is the story of a young boy facing loss, lies and the perils of growing up in the bustling capital of Mexico. When Ben's policeman father dies, Ben's mother stops singing and hardly ever smiles. It's up to Ben to take care of them both. To make matters worse, the bullies at school have begun to pick on him. Now, more than ever, Ben needs help. Will Malaika find a way to reach Ben from beyond the clouds? Do you believe in guardian angels?

[YA FANTASY](#), [OTHER YA](#)

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MFL

- Although Spanish is the official language of Mexico there are 68 families of indigenous languages spoken in the country but they're at risk of dying out! Lucky the project 68 voces, 68 corazones (68 voices, 68 hearts) has been set up to help to bring pride to indigenous communities and break down discrimination. Check out the [website](#) and click on the images to watch the stories and hear them narrated in different languages
- Mexico also has some really cool slang. Some of Miss Hume's favourite Mexican phrases are, "no manches" (No way!), "qué chido" (How cool!) and "órale" (amazing!)

Literature

In A-level Spanish we study a classic Mexican novel called Como Agua Para Chocolate (Like Water for Chocolate) by Laura Esquivel. It's a romance novel written using a technique called "magic realism" popularised amongst Latin American authors such as Esquivel and the great Gabriel García Marquez. The book is set during the Mexican revolution and deals with the themes of love, family, cooking and revolution and it's fantastic!

Mexican author Octavio Paz won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1990 and Carlos Fuentes (The Death of Artemio Cruz) and Juan Rulfo (Pedro Páramo) are also popular authors in Mexico



Geography

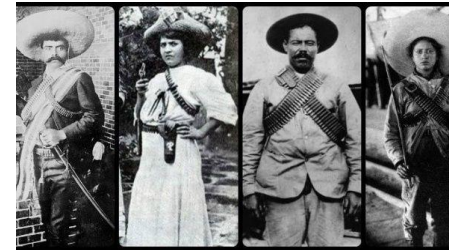
- Estados Unidos Mexicanos (United Mexican States) – made up of 31 states
- Country of south North America
- Third largest country in Latin America
- It is the 14th largest country in the world.
- Approximate population of 129.2 million
- Mexico City is the 5th largest city in the world



Music

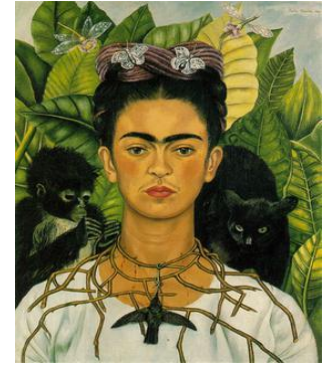
Mexican's love to party! And every party needs good music. It's really typical to hire a mariachi band who will come to your party to play songs like [this](#) for you.

[Julieta Venegas](#) is a popular singer in Mexico, as are [Maná](#) and [Jesse Y Joy](#).



Religion

- There is no official state religion
- 4/5 of the population are affiliated with Roman Catholicism
- Our Lady of Guadalupe is the Mexican patron saint and her Saint Day is celebrated on the 12th December.



Art

Frida Kahlo is one of Mexico's most famous artists

- 1907-54
- Folk art style
- Questions of: identity, gender, class, race and postcolonialism

History

Mexico has a rich and diverse history and that's what makes it the fascinating country it is today. From the Aztecs who founded what is known as modern day Mexico City to the Mayan's in the south with their beautiful temples at Tulum and Chichen Itzá.

When the Spanish conquistadors arrived in the early 1500s, and brought with them the Spanish language, Catholic religion and foreign diseases Mexico changed forever. Mexico gained its independence from Spain in 1810 and they celebrate their Independence Day with big celebrations and parties every 16th September. More recently (!) the Mexican Revolution revolution of 1911 also brought about change. Rebels led by Emiliano Zapata, known as the Zapatistas, were able to overthrow autocratic dictator Porfirio Diaz bringing in social change.