



SUMMER

If you would like to renew a book, or have any comments/queries, please don't hesitate to contact us at library@newsteadwood.co.uk

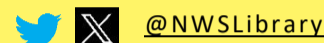
Happy reading! – Miss Mullins, Miss Walker, and Miss Henry



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Orpington Library's Younger Teens Reading Group

Do you enjoy reading?
Enjoy talking about books?



Would you like to join the Younger Teens Reading Group at Orpington Library?

If you would like to join, please contact us by email: orpington.library@gll.org

Meetings are once a month on a Monday from 5:30-6:30pm, during term time, for ages 11-14 years

We look forward to seeing you!



"The world is its own magic." – Shunryu Suzuki

NEW

Amulet: The Stonekeeper's Curse #2 by Kazu Kibuishi

Emily and Navin's mother is still in a coma from the arachnoid's poison, and there's only one place to find help: Kanalis, the bustling, beautiful city of waterfalls. But when Em, her brother, and Miskit and the rest of the robotic crew aboard the walking house reach the city, they quickly realize that seeking help is looking for trouble...dangerous trouble.



Lore Olympus Vol. 2 by Rachel Smythe

Persephone was ready to start a new life when she left the mortal realm for Olympus. However, she quickly discovered the dark side of her glamorous new home — from the relatively minor gossip threatening her reputation to a realm-shattering violation of her safety by the conceited Apollo — and she's struggling to find her footing in the fast-moving realm of the gods. Hades is also off balance, fighting against his burgeoning feelings for the young goddess of spring while maintaining his lonely rule of the Underworld. As the pair are drawn ever closer, they must untangle the twisted webs of their past and present to build toward a new future.



With Fire in Their Blood #1 by Kat Delacorte

When sixteen-year-old Lilly Deluca arrives in Castello, she isn't impressed. A secluded town in the Italian mountains is not where she saw her last years of high school playing out. Divided for generations by a brutal clan-family war, the two halves of Castello are kept from destroying each other by the mysterious General, a leader determined to maintain order and 'purity'... whatever the cost. Lilly falls in with the rebellious Liza, brooding Nico and sensitive Christian, and sparks begin to fly. But in a city where love can lead to ruin, Lilly isn't sure she can trust anyone — not even herself. And then she accidentally breaks Castello's most important rule: when the General's men come to test your blood, you'd better not be anything more than human...



The Hummingbird Killer #2 by Finn Longham

Teen assassin Isabel Ryans now works for Comma, and she's good at it: the Moth is the guild's most notorious killer, infamous throughout the city of Espera. But Isabel still craves normality, and she won't find it inside the guild. She moves in with a civilian flatmate, Laura, and begins living a double life, one where she gets to pretend she's free. But when Isabel's day job tangles her up with an anti-guild abolitionist movement, it becomes harder to keep her two lives separate. Forced to choose between her loyalty to her friends and her loyalty to Comma, she finds herself with enemies on all sides, particularly those from the rival guild Hummingbird, putting herself and Laura at risk.



Better Than the Movies #1 by Lynn Painter

Perpetual daydreamer Liz Buxbaum gave her heart to Michael a long time ago. But her cool, aloof forever crush never really saw her before he moved away. Now that he's back in town, Liz will do whatever it takes to get on his radar — and maybe snag him as a prom date — even befriend Wes Bennet. The annoyingly attractive next-door neighbour might seem like a prime candidate for romantic-comedy fantasies, but Wes has only been a pain in Liz's butt since they were kids. Pranks involving frogs and decapitated lawn gnomes do not a potential boyfriend make. Yet, somehow, Wes and Michael are hitting it off, which means Wes is Liz's in. But as Liz and Wes scheme to get Liz noticed by Michael so she can have her magical prom moment, she's shocked to discover that she likes being around Wes. And as they continue to grow closer, she must reexamine everything she thought she knew about love — and rethink her own ideas of what happily ever after should look like.



Nothing Like the Movies #2 by Lynn Painter

For a few beautiful months, Wes had his dream girl: the strong-willed girl next door Liz. But right as the two were about to set off for college to start their freshman year together, tragedy struck. Wes was left dealing with the fallout, which ultimately meant losing Liz in the process. Flash forward months later, and Wes and Liz find themselves in college, together. In a healthier place now, Wes knows he broke Liz's heart when he ended things, but he is determined to make her fall back in love with him. Wes knows Liz better than anyone, and he has a foolproof plan to win her back with rom-com-worthy grand gestures she loves. Only... Liz will have none of it! Wes has to scheme like a rom-com hero to figure out how to see her. Even worse, Liz has a new friend... a guy friend. Still, Wes won't give up, adapting his clever plans and going hard to get Liz's attention and win back her affection. But after his best efforts get him nowhere, Wes is left wondering if their relationship is really over for good.



The Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling

Best known for the 'Mowgli' stories, Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book* expertly interweaves myth, morals, adventure and powerful story-telling. Set in Central India, *Mowgli* is raised by a pack of wolves. Along the way he encounters memorable characters such as the foreboding tiger Shere Khan, Bagheera the panther and Baloo the bear. Including other stories such as that of Rikki-Tikki-Tavi, a heroic mongoose and Toomai, a young elephant handler, Kipling's fables remain as popular today as they ever were.



14th April is National Donate a Book Day

National Donate a Book Day, celebrated on April 14 in the United States, encourages people to give new or gently used books to their local libraries so others can enjoy reading and learning. If libraries cannot add the donated books to their collections, they often pass them to "Friends of the Library" groups, which sell the books to raise money for library programs. The day was first created in 2011 by the Book-of-the-Month Club, a long-running book subscription service founded in 1926 by Isaac Harry Scherman, as part of National Library Week to promote sharing the joy of reading. Over time, the club has also supported authors and introduced awards like its Book of the Year. People celebrate the day by donating books, encouraging others to do the same or even exploring book subscriptions. The idea highlights how books can be reused and shared rather than thrown away, especially since not all books can be recycled easily. It also reminds us of interesting facts about books, such as how the Bible is the best-selling book ever, some books can be extremely long or expensive, and even young authors have made history. Overall, the day promotes education, community support, and a love of reading by making books more accessible to everyone. To find out more, click [here](#).

NATIONAL DONATE A BOOK DAY



The Woman Next Door by Yewande Omotoso

Hortensia and Marion are next door neighbours in a charming, bougainvillea-laden Cape Town suburb. One is black, one white. Both are successful women with impressive careers behind them. Both have recently been widowed. Both are in their eighties. And both are sworn enemies, sharing hedge and hostility pruned with zeal. But one day an unforeseen event forces the women together. Could long-held mutual loathing transform into friendship?

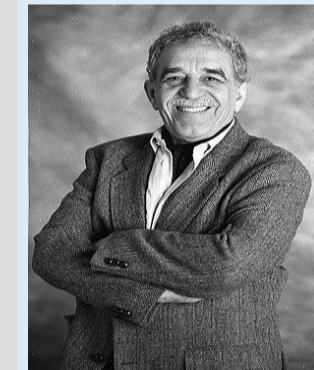
Our Sister, Again by Sophie Cameron

On a small island off the Scottish coast, Isla and her family are grieving the loss of her older sister Flora, who died three years ago. Then they're offered the chance to be part of a top-secret trial, which revives loved ones as fully lifelike AI robots using their digital footprint. Isla has her doubts about *Second Chances*, but they evaporate the moment the 'new' Flora arrives. This girl is not some uncanny close likeness; she is Flora — a perfect replica.



On This Day... Gabriel Garcia Marquez Died 17th April 2014

Gabriel García Márquez was a famous Colombian writer and journalist, widely considered one of the greatest authors of the 20th century, best known for his unique storytelling style called "magic realism," which blends realistic events with magical or fantastical elements. He was born in 1927 in Aracataca and was strongly influenced by his grandparents' stories about family life and local history, which later shaped his writing. Although he studied law, he chose to become a journalist and worked in cities like Bogotá, New York, and Paris before gaining worldwide fame. His most famous novel, *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, tells the story of the fictional town of Macondo and reflects the history and culture of Latin America, making him internationally successful and earning him the Nobel Prize in Literature. García Márquez wrote many other important works, including *Love in the Time of Cholera* and *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*, which explore themes like love, politics, and human nature. His writing was admired for being easy to read while still deep and meaningful, appealing to both everyday readers and critics. Influenced by writers like William Faulkner and Ernest Hemingway, he created detailed stories that often showed the mix of tradition and modern life in Colombia. Over his lifetime, he also spoke about important social and political issues in Latin America, especially in his Nobel Prize speech. Even after being diagnosed with cancer, he continued writing and sharing his experiences. By the time of his death in 2014 in Mexico City, García Márquez had left a legacy, influencing literature around the world and showing how storytelling can reflect culture, history, and imagination all at once. To find out more, click [here](#).



One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

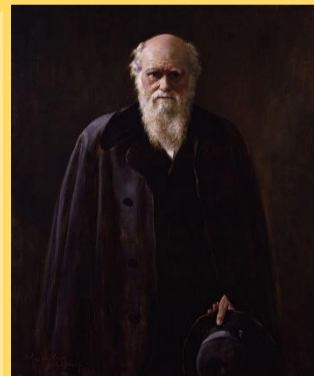
(recommended for older readers)

Though little more than a settlement surrounded by mountains, Macondo has its wars and disasters, even its wonders and miracles. A microcosm of Colombian life, its secrets lie hidden, encoded in a book and only Aureliano Buendia can fathom its mysteries and reveal its shrouded destiny.



On This Day... Charles Darwin has Died 19th April 1882

Charles Darwin was an English scientist whose theory of evolution by natural selection became one of the most important ideas in modern science, explaining how living things, including humans, change over time and share common ancestors. Born in 1809, Darwin did not enjoy traditional schooling and first studied medicine and later theology, but his real passion was studying nature. His life changed when he joined a five-year voyage around the world on the HMS Beagle, where he explored places like South America and the Galápagos Islands, collecting fossils, plants, and animals and noticing patterns that made him question how species developed. These observations led him to begin forming his theory in the late 1830s, although he did not publish it until 1859 in his famous book *On the Origin of Species*, which had a huge impact on science and society. His ideas were controversial at first, especially because they challenged religious beliefs by suggesting humans and animals share a common



ancestry, but they were gradually accepted by scientists and influenced many areas of knowledge. Darwin's early experiences, including exposure to new scientific ideas and mentors during his studies, helped shape his thinking, and his travels showed him evidence like fossils of extinct animals and changes in the Earth's surface that supported his ideas about long-term change. By the time of his death in 1882, his theory had become widely influential, and he was honoured with burial in Westminster Abbey, showing how important his work was to science and society. To find out more on Charles Darwin, click [here](#).

The Autobiography of Charles Darwin by Charles Darwin

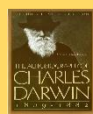
This gentle self-portrait provides a unique insight into the beliefs & principles of the moral man whose theories on evolution shook the foundations of traditional religion & whose legacy courts both controversy & the accolade of being part of scientific orthodoxy in equal measure to this day.

The Illustrated Origin of Species by Charles Darwin

Darwin's reasoned, documented arguments carefully advance his theory of natural selection and his assertion that species were not created all at once by a divine hand but started with a few simple forms that mutated and adapted over time. Whether commenting on his own poor health, discussing his experiments to test instinct in bees, or relating a conversation about a South American burrowing rodent, Darwin's monumental achievement is surprisingly personal and delightfully readable. Its profound ideas remain controversial even today, making it the most influential book in the natural sciences ever written—an important work not just to its time but to the history of humankind.

On the Origin of Species by Charles Darwin

The Origin communicates the enthusiasm of original thinking in an open, descriptive style, and Darwin's emphasis on the value of diversity speaks more strongly now than ever. As well as a stimulating introduction and detailed notes, this edition offers a register of the many writers referred to by Darwin in the text.



15th April is National Anime Day

National Anime Day, celebrated every year on April 15, recognizes the growing global popularity of anime, a style of animation that began in Japan but has since captured audiences all around the world. Anime is known for its unique artistic features, such as detailed characters with large eyes and storytelling that often uses dramatic camera effects like panning and zooming rather than constant movement. The industry has expanded massively over time, with hundreds of production companies and a huge fan base that really took off in the 1990s through TV shows, video games, and manga (Japanese comics). The origins of modern anime can be traced back to influential creators like Osamu Tezuka, often called the "Father of Manga,"



who helped shape its style and success. National Anime Day itself began in 1975 in Tokyo with a gathering of fans, and today it is celebrated worldwide through conventions, both in-person and online, where fans dress up as their favourite characters, share artwork, and explore new releases. The day is not only about celebrating favourite shows and characters but also about appreciating anime's cultural impact and history, including milestones like early films and internationally successful works such as "Akira." People celebrate by watching anime, reading manga, creating costumes, or sharing content on social media, making it a fun and creative way for fans to connect. Overall, National Anime Day highlights how anime has grown from a local Japanese art form into a global phenomenon that brings people together and continues to influence entertainment, art, and digital culture. To find out more, click [here](#).

Blue Flag Vol. 1 by Kaito

Love is already hard enough, but it becomes an un navigable maze for unassuming high school student Taichi Ichinose and his shy classmate Futaba Kuze when they begin to fall for each other after their same-sex best friends have already fallen for them.

Given Vol. 1 by Natsuki Kizu

Love of music unites the four members of the band Given: hot headed guitarist Uenoyama, playboy drummer Akihiko, gentle bassist Haruki, and Mafuyu, a singer gifted with great talent and burdened by past tragedy.

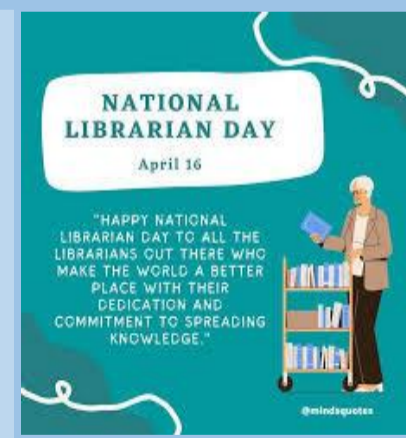
Jujutsu Kaisen Vol. 1 by Gege Akutami

Yuji Itadori is resolved to save the world from cursed demons, but he soon learns that the best way to do it is to slowly lose his humanity and become one himself!



16th April is Celebrate Teen Literature Day

Celebrate Teen Literature Day, observed every Thursday of the second full week in April (falling on April 16 this year), is a special event designed to encourage teenagers to read more and develop a stronger interest in literature. In today's digital age, many teens spend a large amount of time on smartphones, social media, and other technology, which has led to a noticeable decline in reading for enjoyment. This day aims to raise awareness about that trend and remind young people that reading can be both fun and extremely beneficial. Literature has played a major role in shaping human history and culture for thousands of years, with early works like the "Epic of Gilgamesh" and the "Egyptian Book of the Dead" showing how storytelling and written ideas have long helped people understand the world. Over time, literature has evolved into different forms such as poetry, drama, and prose, and famous writers like William Shakespeare have influenced language and



storytelling in lasting ways. However, much of literary history has been lost due to events like the destruction of the Library of Alexandria, which shows why it is important to protect and continue sharing books. Celebrate Teen Literature Day encourages activities like reading a new book, joining a book club, or recommending stories to friends, helping teens connect with others through shared ideas. Reading also has many personal benefits, such as reducing stress, improving focus, building vocabulary, and strengthening communication skills. Even reading for just a short time each day can add up to a huge amount over a year, showing how small habits can make a big difference. Overall, the day highlights the importance of keeping literature alive for future generations and inspires teens to see reading not as a chore, but as an enjoyable and valuable part of their everyday lives.

All Out by Sandra Mitchell

From a retelling of *Little Red Riding Hood* set in war-torn 1870s Mexico featuring a transgender soldier, to an asexual girl discovering her identity amid the 1970s roller-disco scene, this collection of short stories crosses cultures and time periods to shed light on a world where queer figures live, love and shape the world around them.

Hero by Perry Moore

Even though Thom Creed's a basketball star, his high school classmates keep their distance. They've picked up on something different about Thom. Plus, his father, Hal Creed, was one of the greatest and most beloved superheroes of his time until a catastrophic event left him disfigured and an outcast. The last thing in the world Thom wants is to add to his father's pain, so he keeps secrets. Like that he has special powers. And he's been asked to join the League -- the very organization of superheroes that disowned Hal. But joining the League opens up a new world to Thom. There, he connects with a misfit group of aspiring heroes.

