



## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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!



## Books of My Life: Graham Norton



In a recent interview with *The Guardian*, TV presenter Graham Norton shared the books that have shaped him. Norton's earliest reading memory is of *The Mountain of Adventure* by Enid Blyton and he still remembers the "thrill of the world she created and the excitement of the plot." The book that changed him as a teenager was Sylvia Plath's *The Bell Jar* which he found "funny, sophisticated and raw in a way [he] didn't know novels could be." The author he came back to was Charles Dickens, who he originally found too dense - later, upon reading *Oliver Twist*, he realised "how incredibly engaging and entertaining [Dickens'] books are." A book Norton discovered later in life is *Kindred* by Octavia Butler, which he says is "the most visceral novel about the horrors of slavery that [he's] read. Click [here](#) to read the original *Guardian* article.

My Earliest Reading Memory: *Adventure #5: The Mountain of Adventure* by Enid Blyton

Surely a peaceful holiday in the Welsh mountains will keep the children out of trouble. But the mystery of a rumbling mountain soon has them thirsty for more adventure. Philip, Dinah, Lucy-Ann, Jack, and Kiki the parrot are determined to explore the mountain and uncover its secret, but first they must escape from a pack of ravenous wolves and a mad genius who plans to rule the world.

The Book That Changed Me as a Teenager: *The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath (Recommended for Older Readers)

When Esther Greenwood wins an internship on a New York fashion magazine in 1953, she is elated, believing she will finally realise her dream to become a writer. But in between the cocktail parties and piles of manuscripts, Esther's life begins to slide out of control. She finds herself spiralling into serious depression as she grapples with difficult relationships and a society which refuses to take her aspirations seriously.

The Book or Author I Came Back To: *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens

The story of the orphan Oliver, who runs away from the workhouse to be taken in by a den of thieves, shocked readers with its depiction of a dark criminal underworld peopled by vivid and memorable characters - the arch-villain Fagin, the artful Dodger, the menacing Bill Sikes and the prostitute Nancy. Combining elements of Gothic romance, the Newgate novel and popular melodrama, *Oliver Twist* created an entirely new kind of fiction, scathing in its indictment of a cruel society and pervaded by an unforgettable sense of threat and mystery.

The Book I Discovered Later in Life: *Kindred* by Octavia E Butler (Recommended for Older Readers)

The visionary author's masterpiece pulls us—along with her Black female hero—through time to face the horrors of slavery and explore the impacts of racism, sexism, and white supremacy then and now. Dana, a modern Black woman, is celebrating her 26th birthday with her new husband when she is snatched abruptly from her home in California and transported to the antebellum South. Rufus, the white son of a plantation owner, is drowning, and Dana has been summoned to save him. Dana is drawn back repeatedly through time to the slave quarters, and each time the stay grows longer, more arduous, and more dangerous until it is uncertain whether or not Dana's life will end, long before it has a chance to begin.

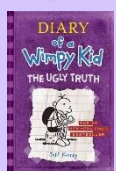


"To go wrong in one's own way is better than to go right in someone else's." – Fyodor Dostoevsky

NEW

*Diary of a Wimpy Kid #5: The Ugly Truth* by Jeff Kinney

Greg Heffley has always been in a hurry to grow up. But is getting older really all it's cracked up to be? Greg suddenly finds himself dealing with the pressures of boy-girl parties, increased responsibilities, and even the awkward changes that come with getting older—all without his best friend, Rowley, at his side. Can Greg make it through on his own? Or will he have to face the "ugly truth"?

*When We Were Birds* by Ayanna Lloyd Banwo

Darwin is a down-on-his-luck gravedigger, newly arrived in the Trinidadian city of Port Angeles to seek his fortune, young and beautiful and lost. Estranged from his mother and the Rastafari faith she taught him, he is convinced that the father he never met may be waiting for him somewhere amid these bustling streets. Meanwhile in an old house on a hill, where the city meets the rainforest, Yejide's mother is dying. And she is leaving behind a legacy that now passes to Yejide: the power to talk to the dead. The women of Yejide's family are human but also not - descended from corbeaux, the black birds that fly east at sunset, taking with them the souls of the dead. Darwin and Yejide both have something that the other needs. Their destinies are intertwined, and they will find one another in the sprawling, ancient cemetery at the heart of the island, where trouble is brewing...



## Rebel Crafts: Fifteen Craftivism Projects to Change the World by Hester Van Overbeek

Hand-painted signs, stickered slogans and knitted craft and protest have gone hand in hand since people began to take to the streets and stand up for change. A way of visualising your beliefs, craftivism combines a passion for making with the desire to make your voice heard - using your own hands to quietly subvert the status quo. Rebel Crafts collects projects that will inspire change, resist injustice and subvert the everyday. Experienced craft author Hester's Handmade Home shares expert advice in 15 fully illustrated step-by-step makes. With crafts suitable for both the experienced maker and the beginner, Hester will teach you how to stitch your way to freedom, screen-print for equality, letter-write for the people and sport your feminist credentials on a badge. Filled with beautifully photographed ideas for how to use and style your makes, Rebel Crafts is a fun and right-on collection of activism-inspired activities.

*A Friend Called Anne* by Jacqueline van Maarsen

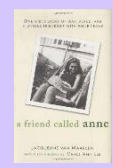
In this beautifully written memoir, Jacqueline van Maarsen tells of her friendship with Anne Frank, depicting Anne as a typical, fun-loving girl. She also recounts her chilling Holocaust experience—escaping deportation by the Nazis; helplessly watching friends, including Anne, and family members disappear; and starting her life again after the war. Through Jacqueline's memories and black-and-white photos, Anne Frank will come to life and continue to be remembered.

*Almost Midnight* by Rainbow Rowell

Contains two wintery short stories. *Midnight* is the story of Noel and Mags, who meet at the same New Year's Eve party every year and fall a little more in love each time... *Kindred Spirits* is about Elena, who decides to queue to see the new *Star Wars* movie and meets Gabe, a fellow fan. *Midnight* was previously published as part of the *My True Love Gave to Me* anthology, edited by Stephanie Perkins and *Kindred Spirits* was previously published as a World Book Day title.

*The Grimoire of Grave Fates* edited by Hanna Alkaf and Margaret Owen

Crack open your spell book and enter the world of the illustrious Galileo Academy for the Extraordinary. There's been a murder on campus, and it's up to the students of Galileo to solve it. Follow 18 authors and 18 students as they puzzle out the clues and find the guilty party. Professor of Magical History Septimius Dropwort has just been murdered, and now everyone at the Galileo Academy for the Extraordinary is a suspect. Told from more than a dozen alternating and diverse perspectives, *The Grimoire of Grave Fates* follows Galileo's best and brightest young magicians as they race to discover the truth behind Dropwort's mysterious death. Each one of them is confident that only they have the skills needed to unravel the web of secrets hidden within Galileo's halls. But they're about to discover that even for straight-A students, magic doesn't always play by the rules...

*Project Hail Mary* by Andy Weir

Ryland Grace is the sole survivor on a desperate, last-chance mission—and if he fails, humanity and the earth itself will perish. Except that right now, he doesn't know that. He can't even remember his own name, let alone the nature of his assignment or how to complete it. All he knows is that he's been asleep for a very, very long time. And he's just been awakened to find himself millions of miles from home, with nothing but two corpses for company. His crewmates dead, his memories fuzzily returning, Ryland realizes that an impossible task now confronts him. Hurling through space on this tiny ship, it's up to him to puzzle out an impossible scientific mystery—and conquer an extinction-level threat to our species. And with the clock ticking down and the nearest human being light-years away, he's got to do it all alone. Or does he?

## Carnegie Award Winners Announced &amp; Newstead Carnegie Club Meet for the Final Time

The Newstead Wood Carnegie Medal Shadower's Club met for the last time last week to watch the Carnegie Medal Awards Ceremony together. The club have been meeting for several months to read and discuss the books featured on this year's Carnegie Medal Shortlist. The group has had lots of fun analysing the books & taking part in relevant activities, and were delighted that *Glasgow Boys* by Margaret McDonald took home the main award. At just 27, Margaret is now the youngest ever recipient of the Carnegie Medal. The Carnegie Shadower's Award, which is voted for by shadowing groups across the country, went to *King of Nothing* by Nathanael Lessor. Thank you, Carnegie Club 2025, for your dedication, enthusiasm, and fascinating insights!

*King of Nothing* by Nathanael Lessor

Anton and his friends are the kings of year 9. They're used to ruling the school and Anton wears the crown. The other kids run away when he's about but that's the way he wants it - he's got a reputation to live up to after all. So when he gets into serious trouble at school, he doesn't really care, but his mum most definitely does. She decides it's time for Anton to make some new friends and join the Happy Campers, a local activity group. Anton would quite literally rather do anything else, especially when he finds out Matthew, the biggest loser in school, is also a member. But after Matthew unexpectedly saves Anton's life, Anton figures maybe this kid is worth a shot. Teaching him some game is the least Anton can do to repay the debt. As the boys strike up an unlikely friendship, Anton finds himself questioning everything he thought was important. Does he want ruling the school to be his crowning glory or should he set his sights on better things?

*Glasgow Boys* by Margaret McDonald

Neither Finlay or Banjo can remember the last time they had a hug. Against all odds, 18-year-old Finlay has begun his nursing degree at Glasgow University. But coming straight from the care system means he has no support network. How can he write essays, focus on his nursing placement and stop himself from falling in love when he's struggling to feed himself? Meanwhile, 17-year-old Banjo is trying to settle into his new foster family and finish high school, desperate to hold onto his job and the people it contains. But his anger and fear keep boiling over, threatening his already uncertain future. Underpinning everything is what happened three years ago in their group care home, when Finlay and Banjo were as close as brothers until they stopped speaking. If these boys want to keep hold of the people they love, they have to be able to forgive one another. More than this, they must find a way to forgive themselves.



## Student Librarian Well-Being Book Review

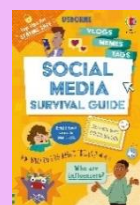
*A Social Media Survival Guide* by Holly Bathie

While reading *A Social Media Survival Guide* by Osborne, I was guided through the complex world of online platforms with practical advice and insightful tips. The book aims to help individuals to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate social media safely and effectively. It covers a range of topics, including privacy settings, managing online reputation, and understanding the impact of social media on mental health.

Osborne's guide stands out for its clear and accessible writing style, making it easy for both beginners and experienced users to grasp essential concepts. The book provides insightful images and creative layouts to illustrate the potential risks and benefits of social media use. By addressing issues such as cyberbullying, misinformation, and addiction, the author encourages readers to develop a critical and mindful approach to their online interactions.

Overall, *A Social Media Survival Guide* is a valuable resource for anyone looking to enhance their understanding of social media and protect themselves from its potential pitfalls. It offers a balanced perspective, highlighting both the positive and negative aspects of online platforms. This book is particularly useful for students as they begin to navigate social media.

By Farrah M, 9W

*A Social Media Survival Guide* by Hollie Bathie

Empower your kids to stay safe online with this fun, comprehensive guide for kids aged 10+. Packed with entertaining illustrations alongside practical information, the *Social Media Survival Guide* answers questions about all aspects of social media - the good AND the bad - making it a must-have tool for young people (and parents) to help navigate the online world safely and confidently and learn the best approaches to taking care of themselves.

## On This Day in History... The Birth of Yann Martel, 25th June 1963

Yann Martel is a Canadian author best known for his novel *Life of Pi* (2001). Martel began his career writing short stories and had his big break when his second novel *Life of Pi* received global praise: the novel won the 2002 Booker Prize, has been translated into 30 languages, and was adapted into an Oscar winning film by director Ang Lee in 2012. The story follows the teenage Pi, who survives a shipwreck by sharing a lifeboat with a Bengal tiger, on his voyage back to civilisation. Following the glowing reception of *Life of Pi*, Martel continued to write novels, notably *Beatrice and Virgil* in 2010, a novel-within-a-novel that uses taxidermy animals as literary vessels to ruminate on the Holocaust. Martel's writings often delve into complex themes of identity and grief, using everyday examples to draw parallels for the reader to make his thoughts and ideas more universally comprehensible. Yann Martel is the author of eight published works to date.

*Life of Pi* by Yann Martel

After the tragic sinking of a cargo ship, a solitary lifeboat remains bobbing on the wide, wild Pacific. The crew of the surviving vessel consists of a hyena, one zebra (with broken leg), an orang-utan, a 450-pound Royal Bengal Tiger named Richard Parker and Pi - a 16-year-old Indian boy. As the 'crew' begin to assert their natural places in the food chain, Pi's fear mounts, and he must use all his wit and daring to develop an understanding with Richard the tiger.

*Self* by Yann Martel

*Self* is the fictional autobiography of a young writer at the heart of which is a startling twist. This extraordinary life meanders through a rich, complicated, bittersweet world. The discoveries of childhood give way to the thousand pangs of adolescence, culminating in the sudden shocking news of an accident abroad. And as adulthood begins, indecisively, boundaries are crossed between countries, languages and people...

## Ancient India Exhibition at the British Museum



The British Museum is hosting an exhibition called 'Ancient India: Living Traditions' from 22nd May-19th October 2025. The exhibition showcases 189 fascinating objects that reflect India's rich spiritual art history in the form of sculptures, paintings and manuscripts that date back over 2,000 years, and illustrate how India's spiritual art evolved, particularly between 200BC and AD600. During this time, the representations of gods and spiritual figures in Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism were 'reimagined from symbolic to more recognisably deriving from human form.' The exhibition's curator, Dr

Sushma Jansari, says the exhibition is unique because it is the first ever look at the origins of all three religious artistic traditions together, rather than separately. The exhibition is divided into five sections, exploring nature spirits, the three religions, and their expansion beyond India to other parts of the world such as Cambodia and China. Notable pieces displayed include a two-sided panel showing the artistic evolution of the Buddha: from symbol to human form (top), and a gold reliquary depicting the earliest image of the Buddha as a man (right). The exhibition is a multisensory experience 'with scents, drapes, nature sounds, and vibrant colours designed to evoke the atmospheres of active Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain religious shrines.' Click [here](#) to find out more. Original BBC article [here](#).

*Embroidery from India and Pakistan* by Paine Sheila

Focusing on over 20 textiles from the British Museum's collection, this book explores the wonderful folk embroidery of India and Pakistan - in particular the domestic work made by women for their own dowry or family. Illustrated in full and in detail, these richly decorated items - costumes and household textiles - should provide designers at all levels with inspiration for new and unexpected ways for using colour and pattern in their own work.

*Hindu Art and Architecture* by George Michell

The art of Hinduism constitutes one of the world's great traditions, as alive today as when the first images of Hindu gods were fashioned out of stone more than two thousand years ago. George Michell's invaluable survey looks at the entire period, covering shrines consecrated to Hindu cults as well as works of art that portray Hindu divinities, semidivine personalities, and mythological narratives. Michell outlines the development of Hinduism and the principal iconic forms of its pantheon (the symbolic basis for Hindu religious architecture), and explains the system of royal patronage that led to the construction of so many temples and the commissioning of their attendant works of art. Then, in a broad chronological sweep, he demonstrates artistic continuities down to the present day in the different regions of the country, confirming the vibrancy of the visual world of Hinduism. The illustrations include Mamallapuram and other great temples, profound and beautiful works of sculpture such as Shiva dancing the eternal dance of creation and destruction, and exquisite paintings of the loves of Krishna.

