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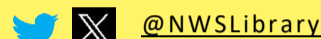
Happy reading! – Miss Mullins, Miss Walker, and Miss Henry



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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!



"Springing into April with gratitude and love." – Charmaine J. Forde

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.



No Friend to This House by Natalie Haynes

Jason and his Argonauts set sail to find the Golden Fleece. The journey is filled with danger, for him and everyone he meets. But if he ever reaches the distant land he seeks, he faces almost certain death. Medea—priestess, witch, and daughter of a brutal king—has the power to save the life of a stranger. Will she betray her family and her home, and what will she demand in return? Medea and Jason seize their one chance of a life together, as the gods intend. But their love is steeped in vengeance from the beginning, and no one—not even those closest to them—will be safe. Based on the classic tragedy by Euripides, this is Medea as you've never seen her before . . .

Lady Chatterley's Lover by D.H. Lawrence

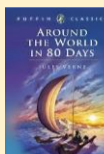
(recommended for older readers)

Lawrence's frank portrayal of an extramarital affair and the explicit sexual explorations of its central characters caused this controversial book, now considered a masterpiece, to be banned as explicit until 1960.



The Shadow of the Gods #1 by John Gwynne

After the gods warred and drove themselves to extinction, the cataclysm of their fall shattered the land of Vigið. Now a new world is rising, where power-hungry jarls feud and monsters stalk the woods and mountains. A world where the bones of the dead gods still hold great power for those brave - or desperate - enough to seek them out. Now, as whispers of war echo across the mountains and fjords, fate follows in the footsteps of three people: a huntress on a dangerous quest, a noblewoman who has rejected privilege in pursuit of battle fame, and a thral who seeks vengeance among the famed mercenaries known as the Bloodsworn. All three will shape the fate of the world as it once more falls under the shadow of the gods.



Around the World in 80 Days by Jules Verne

One night in the reform club, Phileas Fogg bets his companions that he can travel across the globe in just eighty days. Breaking the well-established routine of his daily life, he immediately sets off for Dover with his astonished valet Passepartout. Passing through exotic lands and dangerous locations, they seize whatever transportation is at hand—whether train or elephant—overcoming set-backs and always racing against the clock.

L'Etranger by Albert Camus (copy in French)

(recommended for older readers)

Published in 1942 by French author Albert Camus, *The Stranger* has long been considered a classic of twentieth-century literature. *Le Monde* ranks it as number one on its "100 Books of the Century" list. Through this story of an ordinary man unwittingly drawn into a senseless murder on a sun-drenched Algerian beach, Camus explores what he termed "the nakedness of man faced with the absurd."



Scarlet and Ivy: The Curse in the Candlelight #5 by Sophie Cleverly

There's a new girl at Rookwood School, and new mystery for Scarlet and Ivy to solve. It's a brand-new term for Scarlet and Ivy, and the girls are intrigued by a fascinating new girl, Ebony. She's as enchanting as she is mysterious, and she's begun to gather quite the following—in fact, most of the younger girls appear to be under her spell. But rumours swirl like ghosts around Ebony, and not all of them are nice. And when a prank on All Hallow's Eve goes horribly wrong, it's Ebony who gets the blame. Ivy and Scarlet aren't so sure. There might be more to Ebony than meets the eye, but surely she's not dangerous? But if it's not Ebony, then who or what is to blame?

Check Out Florence Ingram's Review of Six of Crows!

The series follows a gang of six teenagers as they pull off wildly unlikely heists (I've read it probably eight times and still couldn't tell you how they do it) in pursuit of revenge, money, and maybe some slight world-saving.

I chose the *Six of Crows* duology because it's a wonderful series that manages to blend humour, incredibly likeable characters and a world so gloriously detailed you'll forget it doesn't exist.

I love this book for the diversity seen in both the world and the central cast of characters, as well as its stunning, sensitive, portrayal of trauma, neurodiversity, and queerness, without it feeling forced or thrown in 'for representation'. *Six of Crows* managed to make me cry, laugh, and throw the book across the room out of happiness.

I hope you'll like it, if not for the found family, the maps and languages, or the brilliant characters, then for the humour.

And remember: my ghost won't associate with your ghost.

– Florence Ingram, 9N

Six of Crows #1 by Leigh Bardugo

Six dangerous outcasts. One impossible heist. Kaz's crew is the only thing that might stand between the world and destruction—if they don't kill each other first.



Crooked Kingdom #2 by Leigh Bardugo

Kaz Brekker and his crew have just pulled off the most daring heist imaginable. But instead of divvying up a fat reward, they're fighting for their lives. Double-crossed and badly weakened, they're low on resources, allies and hope. While a war rages on the city's streets, the team's fragile loyalties are stretched to the breaking point. Kaz and his crew will have to make sure they're on the winning side... no matter what the cost.



On This Day... Charlotte Bronte was born 21st April 1816

Charlotte Brontë (1816–1855) was an English novelist best known for *Jane Eyre* (1847), a groundbreaking novel that portrayed a woman struggling between her emotions and the strict expectations of Victorian society, helping make fiction feel more realistic and emotionally true. She grew up in Yorkshire in a large but troubled family: after her mother and two older sisters died, Charlotte, her siblings Emily, Anne, and Branwell were raised by their father, a clergyman, with help from their aunt. As a young adult, she worked as both a student and teacher, though she found the work difficult and often felt lonely and unhappy. She tried to improve her prospects by working as a governess and studying abroad in Brussels, where she developed her writing skills and gathered experiences that later influenced her novels. Charlotte and her sisters first published a book of poems under male pseudonyms to avoid prejudice, and although it failed, it led to their attempts at writing novels. *Jane Eyre* became an immediate success, telling the story of an orphaned governess who falls in love with her employer but must choose between love and her moral principles; its strong, independent heroine and emotional depth made it highly influential. Charlotte later wrote *Shirley* (1849), which explored social issues in industrial England, and *Villette* (1853), inspired by her time in Brussels. Despite her success, her life was marked by tragedy, as all her siblings died young. She eventually married Arthur Bell Nicholls in 1854 and found some happiness, but she died the following year at age 38 during pregnancy. Charlotte Brontë's novels were important because they combined romance with realism and presented stories from a woman's perspective, influencing many later writers and changing how female characters were portrayed in literature. To find out more and Charlotte Bronte, [click here](#).



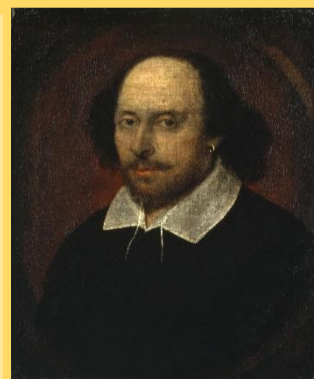
Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte

Orphaned Jane Eyre grows up in the home of her heartless aunt and later attends a charity school with a harsh regime, enduring loneliness and cruelty. This troubled childhood strengthens Jane's natural independence and spirit—which prove necessary when she finds a position as governess at Thornfield Hall. However, when she finds love with her sardonic employer, Rochester, the discovery of his terrible secret forces her to make a choice. Should she stay with him and live with the consequences, or follow her convictions, even if it means leaving the man she loves?



On This Day... William Shakespeare was born and had died 23rd April 1564-1616

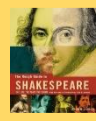
William Shakespeare (1564–1616) was an English poet, playwright, and actor, widely regarded as the greatest dramatist of all time and often called England's national poet. Born in Stratford-upon-Avon, he likely attended a local grammar school where he learned Latin and classical literature, though he did not go to university. At 18, he married Anne Hathaway, and they had three children. Although little is known about his life during his early adulthood, by the early 1590s he had become a successful writer and actor in London. He was a key member of the acting company known as the Lord Chamberlain's Men (later the King's Men), which performed at the famous Globe Theatre, where many of his plays were staged. Shakespeare wrote over 30 plays and many poems, including famous works such as *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *King Lear*, which explore universal human emotions like love, ambition, jealousy, and betrayal. His writing is admired for its powerful language, deep



understanding of human nature, and ability to connect with audiences across different cultures and time periods. Despite his success, much of his personal life remains a mystery, with most information coming from official records rather than personal writings. He became wealthy enough to buy property and improve his family's social status, eventually returning to Stratford later in life. Shakespeare died in 1616 at the age of 52, but his influence has lasted for centuries, as his plays are still widely performed, studied, and celebrated around the world for their insight into human behaviour and their lasting artistic brilliance. To find out more on Shakespeare, [click here](#).

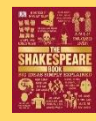
The Rough Guide to Shakespeare by Andrew Dickson

The Rough Guide to Shakespeare provides the perfect introduction across all media from the Elizabethan theatre to the modern multiplex. Designed to work equally well as a quick reference and a background companion, the book features full coverage of all 38 plays including a synopsis, character list, stage history and a full critical essay.



The Shakespeare Book by Stanley Wells

Learn more about the work of William Shakespeare with *The Shakespeare Book*, packed full of infographics, inspirational quotes, character guides, and more bonus material that illuminates the bard's work, from Shakespeare plays like *Twelfth Night*, *Julius Caesar*, *Hamlet*, and *As You Like It*, to his best-loved sonnets, and even obscure lost works. Every comedy, tragedy, history, and poem of Shakespeare's is collected here in this comprehensive guide.



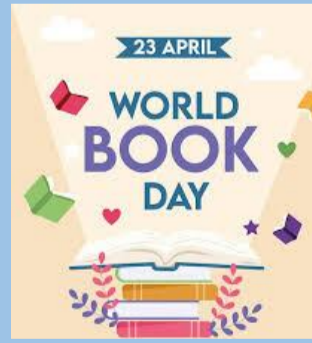
Shakespeare in His Age by F.E. Halliday

The life and work of Shakespeare is put into context in this fascinating volume, based on the assertion that in order to understand this great writer, we must appreciate the epoch in which he existed. Beginning with a description of the England into which he was born, his political and cultural inheritance, each year of his half-century lifetime is meticulously charted, noting the forces that helped to determine his development and his work.



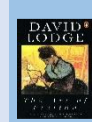
April 23rd is... World Book Day!

World Book Day is celebrated every year on April 23 to promote the joy of reading and highlight the importance of books in our lives, a tradition started by UNESCO in 1995. The day encourages people—especially students—to read for pleasure, as research shows that reading regularly can improve vocabulary, boost academic performance, expand general knowledge, and help people better understand different cultures. Books have a long history, evolving from ancient clay tablets to printed works after the invention of the printing press, and today they exist in both physical and digital forms, making them more accessible than ever. The date of April 23 was chosen because it marks the deaths of famous writers such as William Shakespeare and Miguel de Cervantes, linking the celebration to literary history. World Book Day is celebrated in over 100 countries, although some, like the UK, observe it on a different date to fit the school calendar. The day is not just about reading but also about inspiring creativity and imagination, whether by visiting libraries, sharing books, dressing up as literary characters, or joining book clubs. Overall, World Book Day highlights how reading can reduce stress, improve focus, and build empathy by allowing people to experience different perspectives, making it an important celebration that encourages lifelong learning and a love of literature. To find out more, [click here](#).



The Art of Fiction: Illustrated from Classic and Modern Texts by David Lodge

The art of fiction is considered under a wide range of headings, such as the Intrusive Author, Suspense, the Epistolary Novel, Time-shift, Magic Realism and Symbolism, and each topic is illustrated by a passage or two taken from classic or modern fiction. Drawing on writers as diverse as Henry James and Martin Amis, Jane Austen and Fay Weldon and Henry Fielding and James Joyce, David Lodge makes accessible to the general reader the richness and variety of British and American fiction.



Aspects of the Novel by E.M. Forster

First given as a series of lectures at Cambridge University, *Aspects of the Novel* is Forster's analysis of this great literary form. Here he rejects the 'pseudo scholarship' of historical criticism - 'that great demon of chronology' - that considers writers in terms of the period in which they wrote and instead asks us to imagine the great novelists working together in a single room. He discusses aspects of people, plot, fantasy and rhythm, making illuminating comparisons between novelists such as Proust and James, Dickens and Thackeray, Eliot and Dostoyevsky - the features shared by their books and the ways in which they differ. Written in a wonderfully engaging and conversational manner, this penetrating work of criticism is full of Forster's habitual irreverence, wit and wisdom...



22nd April is Stephen Lawrence Day

Stephen Lawrence Day is observed every year on April 22 to remember Stephen Lawrence, an 18-year-old Black British teenager who was killed in a racist attack in south-east London in 1993 while waiting for a bus. His murder became one of the most important and widely discussed cases in modern British history, not only because of the crime itself but also because of how it was handled: although suspects were identified, they were not charged at the time, and it was widely believed that racism affected the police investigation. A major public inquiry led by William Macpherson later found that the police investigation had been seriously flawed and described the force as "institutionally racist," leading to significant changes in how the justice system deals with racism. The case also helped bring about legal reform, including changes to the double jeopardy rule through the Criminal Justice Act 2003, which eventually allowed two of the attackers to be convicted in 2012.



Stephen Lawrence Day was established by the Stephen Lawrence Foundation, supported by his mother Doreen Lawrence, to honour his life and legacy while promoting a more equal and inclusive society. The day encourages people, especially young people, to reflect on the impact of racism, take positive action in their communities, and work towards fairness and opportunity for all, ensuring that Stephen Lawrence's story continues to inspire change and raise awareness about injustice. To find out more, [click here](#).

And Still I Rise: A Mother's Search for Justice

(recommended for older readers)

In April 1993, Stephen Lawrence was murdered by a group of young white men on a street in south-east London. From the first police investigation onwards, the case was badly mishandled. In the end, long after the case against the five suspects had been dropped, the government had to give in to mounting pressure and hold a public inquiry, which became the most explosive in British legal history. These facts leave the reader unprepared for Doreen Lawrence's own story of her son's murder. In this raw, honest book, she writes frankly about her childhood, about her struggle for a decent life for herself and her children and her hopes for her bright, motivated son. Her account of the murder and the botched and insensitive investigation by the Metropolitan Police is deeply moving. She recreates the pain, frustration and bafflement she experienced as she realised that there might never be a moment when she could say to herself that justice had been done.

