



WINTER

"Some people could look at a mud puddle and see an ocean with ships." — Zora Neale Hurston

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Happy reading! — Miss Mullins, Miss Walker, and Miss McGarr



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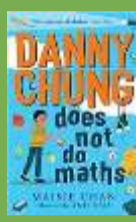
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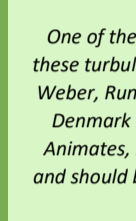
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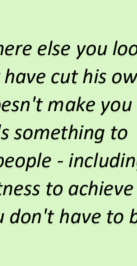
You Don't Have to be Loud: A Quiet Kid's Guide to Being Heard by Ben Brooks
Do you sometimes feel afraid of talking in front of people, making a mistake or saying the wrong thing? While everywhere else you look there are loud, confident people? You're not alone. Ben Brooks also grew up as a shy child (so much so that he'd rather have cut his own hair or spend a week at a Silent Retreat than have to speak to other people). But he soon realised that being quiet doesn't make you strange or wrong or boring. In fact, being shy can give you great skills such as listening, kindness and compassion. It's something to embrace and be proud of. In this book, Ben introduces readers to some of the most famous, talented and brilliant shy people - including Charles Darwin, David Bowie, Greta Thunberg, Rosa Parks, Beyonce and Emma Watson - who used their special quietness to achieve awesome things, and he shares his tips for growing up shy in a world that can sometimes feel, well, LOUD. Because you don't have to be loud to be liked, and you definitely don't have to be loud to make an impact.



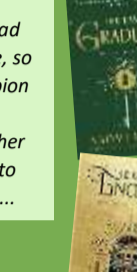
Danny Chung Does Not Do Maths by Maisie Chan
Eleven-year-old Danny Chung loves drawing more than anything - certainly more than maths, which, according to his dad and everyone else, is what he is 'supposed' to be good at. He also loves having his own room where he can draw in peace, so his life is turned upside down when a surprise that he's been promised turns out to be his little, wrinkly, ex-maths-champion grandmother from China. What's worse, Nai Nai has to share his room, AND she takes the top bunk!
Nai Nai can't speak a word of English, which doesn't make things easy for Danny when he is charged with looking after her during his school holidays. Babysitting Nai Nai is NOT what he wants to be doing! Before long though it becomes clear to Danny that there is more to Nai Nai than meets the eye, and that they have more in common than he thought possible...



Ideas in Profile: Politics by David Runciman
One of the world's leading political scientists asks the big questions about politics: what is it, why we do we need it and where, in these turbulent times, is it heading? From the gap between rich and poor to the impact of social media, via Machiavelli, Hobbes and Weber, Runciman's comprehensive short introduction is invaluable to those studying politics or those who want to know how life in Denmark became more comfortable than in Syria. Fusing animation and images from the award winning animators behind RSA Animates, beautifully adapted to both print and digital formats, the Ideas in Profile series boldly reinvents what introductions can and should be in the twenty-first century. Concise, clear, relevant, entertaining, original and global in scope, Politics makes essential reading - and viewing for students and general readers.

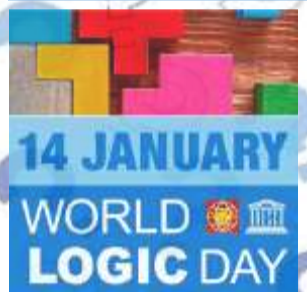


The Scholmance #3: The Last Graduate by Naomi Novik
The dark school of magic has always done its best to devour its students, but now that El has reached her final year -- and somehow won herself a handful of allies along the way -- it's suddenly developed a very particular craving... For her. As the savagery of the school ramps up, El is determined that she will not give in; not to the mals, not to fate, and especially not to the Scholmance. But as the spectre of graduation looms -- the deadly final ritual that leaves few students alive -- if she and her allies are to make it out, El will need to realise that sometimes winning the game means throwing out all the rules.



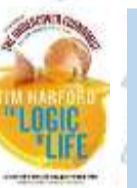
The Scholmance #4: The Golden Enclaves by Naomi Novik
The one thing you never talk about while you're in the Scholmance is what you'll do when you get out - not even the richest enclaver would tempt fate that way. But that impossible dream has somehow come true for El and her classmates. And what's more, she didn't even have to become the monstrous dark witch she's prophesied to become to make it happen. Instead of killing enclavers, she saved them, and now the world is safe for all wizards. Peace and harmony have enveloped all the enclaves of the world. Just kidding. Instead, someone else has picked up the project of destroying enclaves in El's stead, and everyone she saved is at risk again with a full-scale enclaver war on the horizon. And so, the first thing El needs to do after miraculously escaping the Scholmance, is to turn straight around and find a way back in.

14th of January - World Logic Day

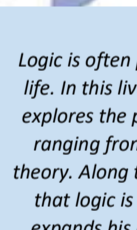


World Logic Day has been observed annually on the 14th of January since 2019. The day was assigned by UNESCO in association with the International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences and intends to 'bring the intellectual history, conceptual significance, and practical implications of logic to the attention of interdisciplinary science communities and the broader public.' The 14th of January was chosen as it is the anniversary both of the death of Kurt Gödel and the birth of Alfred Tarski, two of the most prominent logicians of the twentieth century.

How to Cut a Cake and Other Mathematical Conundrums by Ian Stewart
Welcome back to Ian Stewart's magical world of mathematics! Here are twenty more curious puzzles and fantastical mathematical stories from one of the world's most popular and accessible writers on mathematics. This is a strange world of never-ending chess games, empires on the moon, furious fireflies, and, of course, disputes over how best to cut a cake. Each chapter—with titles such as "How to Play Poker By Post" and "Repealing the Law of Averages"—presents a fascinating mathematical puzzle that is challenging, fun, and introduces the reader to a significant mathematical problem in an engaging and witty way. Illustrated with clever and quirky cartoons, each tale will delight those who love puzzles and mathematical conundrums.



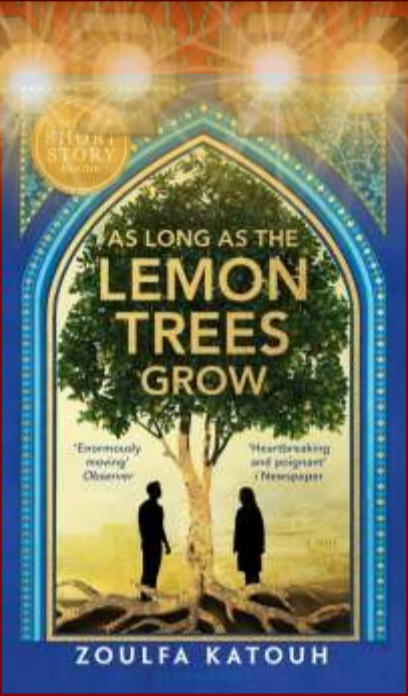
The Logic of Life by Tim Harford
If humans are so clever, why do we smoke and gamble, or take drugs, or fall in love? Is this really rational behaviour? And how come your idiot boss is so overpaid? In fact, the behaviour of even the unlikeliest of individuals—sex workers, drug addicts, racists and revolutionaries—complies with economic logic, taking into account future costs and benefits, even if we don't quite realise it. We are rational beings after all.



Logic: A Very Short Introduction by Graham Priest
Logic is often perceived as having little to do with the rest of philosophy, and even less to do with real life. In this lively and accessible introduction, Graham Priest shows how wrong this conception is. He explores the philosophical roots of the subject, explaining how modern formal logic deals with issues ranging from the existence of God and the reality of time to paradoxes of probability and decision theory. Along the way, the basics of formal logic are explained in simple, non-technical terms, showing that logic is a powerful and exciting part of modern philosophy. In this new edition Graham Priest expands his discussion to cover the subjects of algorithms and axioms, and proofs in mathematics.

Visit UNESCO's World Logic Day page here.

Wish List Spotlight:



As Long as the Lemon Trees Grow by Zoufka Katouh

A year ago, before the revolution, Salama watched her brother marry her best friend, Layla, and wondered when her own love story might begin. Now she works at the hospital - helping those she can, closing the eyes of those she can't. Layla and her unborn baby are all Salama has left.

Unless you count Khawf. But he's a hallucination; a symptom of the horrors she's seen. Every day he urges Salama to leave. Every day she refuses.

Until she crosses paths with Kenan, the boy with the vivid green eyes, who wants to stay and risk his life for everything Syria could be.

Set and Track Your Reading Goals with Goodreads or The StoryGraph

Some readers find it useful to set themselves a reading goal each year. Sometimes a reading goal is based on quality: some examples of a quality-based goal could be committing to reading more classics that year or pledging to annotate/ make notes on books in order to absorb them more fully. Sometimes a reading goal is based on quantity, and the reader will focus reading a certain number of books that year. Neither type of goal is any more or less worthy than the other, they are merely different ways of tracking and getting the most out of your reading. If you are interested in setting a reading goal based on quantity, the apps/ websites Goodreads and The StoryGraph both have functions that can help you to track your reading. Below is some information on how to access those functions:

Goodreads— Sign in to Goodreads. Click on the banner at the top of the page that says 'Join the Challenge.' Click on the 'Join the challenge' button' on the next page. Enter the amount of books you want to read this year in the box that appears. **The StoryGraph**—Sign in to The StoryGraph. Click on 'Reading Challenges' at the top of the page. Click on 'Set Your 2024 Reading Goal'. Enter the amount of books you want to read this year in the box that appears.

Both websites will now track your reading goal using a bar. Every time you mark a book as read on the website, the bar will show you a visual representation of how close you are to reaching your goal. **N.B. You must be 16 or over (or have a parent/ carer's permission) to use The StoryGraph. You must be 13 years or older to use Goodreads.**

Log In/ Sign Up to The Storygraph [here](#)

Log In/ Sign Up to Goodreads [here](#)

Take The Guardian's 2023 Bumper Books Quiz

The Guardian's annual Bumper Books Quiz for the end of 2023 has been published online. The quiz contains 53 literary questions, some of which are written by authors such as Bernadine Evaristo, Jonathan Coe, and Nina Stibbe. The questions are wide-ranging and cover trivia about books both modern and classic. Additionally, there are clues to the titles of 10 books hidden in a drawing of an ice rink at the top of the page containing the quiz. Scroll to the bottom of the quiz page to see the answers.

Take the quiz [here](#).

On This Day in History... The Death of T. S. Eliot, 4th January 1965



Thomas Stearns Eliot, born January 1965, is considered to be one of the 20th century's greatest poets. His best-known poem is called *The Wasteland* (1922). It is set in the aftermath of the First World War and is about "the search for redemption and renewal in a sterile and spiritually empty landscape." Below you can read the beginning of Part I of *The Wasteland*. Click on the link below the poem to continue reading.

Bin gar keine Russin, stamm' aus Litauen, echt deutsch.
And when we were children, staying at the archduke's,
My cousin's, he took me out on a sled,
And I was frightened. He said, Marie,
Marie, hold on tight. And down we went.
In the mountains, there you feel free.
I read, much of the night, and go south in the winter.

What are the roots that clutch, what branches grow
Out of this stony rubbish? Son of man,
You cannot say, or guess, for you know only
A heap of broken images, where the sun beats,
And the dead tree gives no shelter, the cricket no
relief,
And the dry stone no sound of water. Only
There is shadow under this red rock,
(Come in under the shadow of this red rock),
And I will show you something different from either
Your shadow at morning striding behind you
Or your shadow at evening rising to meet you;
I will show you fear in a handful of dust.

Read the rest of the poem [here](#).

The Wasteland by T.S. Eliot (Part I)

The Burial of the Dead
April is the cruelest month, breeding
Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing
Memory and desire, stirring
Dull roots with spring rain.
Winter kept us warm, covering
Earth in forgetful snow, feeding
A little life with dried tubers.
Summer surprised us, coming over the Starnbergersee
With a shower of rain; we stopped in the colonnade,
And went on in sunlight, into the Hofgarten,
And drank coffee, and talked for an hour.

On This Day in History...The Death of Dame Agatha Christie, 12th January 1976



Born in September 1890, Dame Agatha Christie is often referred to as the Queen of Crime. Over a career spanning 54 years, Christie wrote 66 detective novels and 14 short story collections, many featuring her incredibly famous detective protagonists Hercule Poirot and Jane Marple. She also wrote the world's longest-running play, murder mystery *The Mousetrap*, which has been performed in the West End since 1952. Since publication, Agatha Christie's novels have sold more than two billion copies, leading Guinness World Records to list her as the best-selling fiction writer of all time.

Christie's first published book, released in 1920, was *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*. The novel introduced Hercule Poirot who would go on to appear in 33 of her novels and more than 50 short stories. By the end of the 1930s however, Christie grew tired of the Belgian detective and his little grey cells and wrote in her diary that she was finding him "insufferable." By the 1960s, she was referring to the character as "an egocentric creep." Despite Christie's negative feelings towards Poirot, the public disagreed, and when she finally killed the character off in the novel *Curtain*, Poirot became the first fictional character to have an obituary in the *New York Times*.

In 1927, Christie began writing stories featuring Miss Jane Marple, an elderly spinster who solved crimes using analogies to English village life. In Christie's autobiography it is revealed that the character of Jane Marple was inspired by Agatha's step-grandmother Margaret Miller and her friends who, "always expected the worst of everyone and everything, and were, with almost frightening accuracy, usually proved right." Jane Marple appeared in 12 of Christie's novels, and 22 short stories.

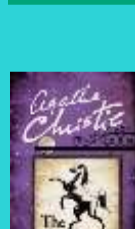
Agatha Christie passed away peacefully on the 12th of January 1976 at her home. She was buried in the nearby churchyard of St Mary's, Chelsey, in a plot she had chosen with her husband 10 years prior.



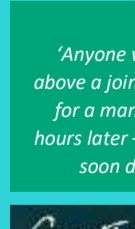
The Body in the Library by Agatha Christie
It's seven in the morning. The Bantrys wake to find the body of a young woman in their library. She is wearing evening dress and heavy make-up, which is now smeared across her cheeks. But who is she? How did she get there? And what is the connection with another dead girl, whose charred remains are later discovered in an abandoned quarry? The respectable Bantrys invite Miss Marple to solve the mystery... before tongues start to wag.



The Mysterious Affair at Styles by Agatha Christie
Agatha Christie's debut novel was also the first to feature Hercule Poirot, her famously eccentric Belgian detective. A refugee of the Great War, Poirot has settled in England near Styles Court, the country estate of his wealthy benefactor, the elderly Emily Inglethorpe. When Emily is poisoned and the authorities are baffled, Poirot puts his prodigious sleuthing skills to work. Suspects are plentiful, including the victim's much younger husband, her resentful stepsons, her longtime hired companion, a young family friend working as a nurse, and a London specialist on poisons who just happens to be visiting the nearby village. All of them have secrets they are desperate to keep, but none can outwit Poirot as he navigates the ingenious red herrings and plot twists that contribute to Agatha Christie's well-deserved reputation as the queen of mystery.



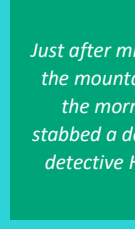
The Pale Horse by Agatha Christie
A priest's death leads to sinister goings-on in an old country pub... To understand the strange goings on at The Pale Horse Inn, Mark Easterbrook knew he had to begin at the beginning. But where exactly was the beginning? Was it the savage blow to the back of Father Gorman's head? Or was it when the priest's assailant searched him so roughly he tore the clergyman's cassock? Or could it have been the priest's visit, just minutes before, to a woman on her death bed? Or was there a deeper significance to the violent squabble which Mark Easterbrook had himself witnessed earlier? Wherever the beginning lies, Mark and his sidekick, Ginger Corrigan, may soon have cause to wish they'd never found it...



Murder at the Vicarage by Agatha Christie
'Anyone who murdered Colonel Protheroe,' declared the parson, brandishing a carving knife above a joint of roast beef, 'would be doing the world at large a favour!' It was a careless remark for a man of the cloth. And one which was to come back and haunt the clergyman just a few hours later - when the colonel was found shot dead in the clergyman's study. But as Miss Marple soon discovers, the whole village seems to have had a motive to kill Colonel Protheroe.



The Murder of Roger Ackroyd by Agatha Christie
Considered to be one of Agatha Christie's greatest, and also most controversial mysteries, 'The Murder of Roger Ackroyd' breaks the rules of traditional mystery. The peaceful English village of King's Abbot is stunned. The widow Ferrars dies from an overdose of Veronal. Not twenty-four hours later, Roger Ackroyd—the man she had planned to marry—is murdered. It is a baffling case involving blackmail and death that taxes Hercule Poirot's "little grey cells" before he reaches one of the most startling conclusions of his career.



Murder on the Orient Express by Agatha Christie
Just after midnight, a snowdrift stops the famous Orient Express in its tracks as it travels through the mountainous Balkans. The luxurious train is surprisingly full for the time of the year but, by the morning, it is one passenger fewer. An American tycoon lies dead in his compartment, stabbed a dozen times, his door locked from the inside. One of the passengers is none other than detective Hercule Poirot. On vacation. Isolated and with a killer on board, Poirot must identify the murderer—in case he or she decides to strike again.

Find out more about Dame Agatha Christie [here](#).