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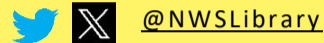
Happy reading! – Miss Mullins, Miss Walker, and Miss Henry



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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!



"I wonder what it would be like to live in a world where it was always June." – L.M. Montgomery, *Anne of the Island*

NEW

Spellsinger #1 by Sebastien De Castell

Kellen is moments away from facing his first mage's duel and the start of four trials that will make him a spellsinger. There's just one problem: his magic is gone. As his sixteenth birthday approaches, Kellen falls back on his cunning in a bid to avoid total disgrace. But when a daring stranger arrives in town, she challenges Kellen to take a different path. Ferius Parfax is one of the mysterious Argosi - a traveller who lives by her wits and the three decks of cards she carries. She's difficult and unpredictable, but she may be Kellen's only hope...



Soulbinder #4 by Sebastien De Castell

Kellen and his murderous squirrel cat, Reichis, are on their own. They've heard rumour of a mythical monastery, known as the Ebony Abbey. It's a place that outsiders can never find - but Kellen is getting desperate. He's been told that the monks inside the Ebony Abbey know more about the Shadowblack than anyone else - and that they even know how to cure it. Then Kellen and Reichis are separated and for the first time, Kellen must face the world alone - and venture deeper into shadow magic than he ever knew he could.

Shadowblack #2 by Sebastien De Castell

It's a few months since Kellen left his people behind. Now aged sixteen, Kellen is an outlaw, relying on his wits to keep him alive in the land of the Seven Sands. He misses home, he misses family and more than anything, he misses Nephenia, the girl he left behind. Then he meets Seneira, a blindfolded girl who isn't blind, and who carries a secret that's all too familiar to Kellen. Kellen and Ferius resolve to help - but the stakes are far higher than they realise. A Shadowblack plague is taking hold - and Kellen can't help but suspect his own people may even be behind it.



Queenslayer #5 by Sebastien De Castell

Kellen and Reichis have just finished fighting a duel in the desert when Kellen inadvertently smears blood on the Daroman flag, an act of treason for which the Marshals have no choice but to arrest him. Just before he's put before the Queen to be executed, Kellen is given a strange piece of advice from one of his fellow prisoners: kill the Queen and he'll be given clemency by those who take power. But when Kellen comes face-to-face with the 11-year-old monarch, he realises she's vastly smarter than he expected, and in a great deal more danger.

Charmcaster #3 by Sebastien De Castell

Kellen, Reichis and Ferius are on their way to Gitabria, a city where amazing inventions are dreamed up and sold across the land of the Seven Sands. But when the three of them stumble across a tiny mechanical bird, magically brought to life, they quickly realise all is not as it appears. Meanwhile two strange Argosi appear, carrying secrets from Ferius' past, together with an unlikely Jan'Tep ally. And as time ticks on, all the cards in Ferius' deck point to the emerging tides of war...



Death Note Vol. 1 by Tsugumi Ohba

Light Yagami is an ace student with great prospects—and he's bored out of his mind. But all that changes when he finds the Death Note, a notebook dropped by a rogue Shinigami death god. Any human whose name is written in the notebook dies, and now Light has vowed to use the power of the Death Note to rid the world of evil. Will Light's noble goal succeed, or will the Death Note turn him into the very thing he fights against?

5th June is World Environment Day

World Environment Day is celebrated every year on June 5 and is one of the largest global events dedicated to raising awareness about environmental issues and encouraging people to take action to protect the planet. It was established by the United Nations in 1972 during the first major international conference on the environment, which brought world leaders together to discuss problems such as pollution, resource depletion, and the impact of human activities on nature. The first World Environment Day was celebrated in 1974 with the slogan "Only One Earth," highlighting the importance of caring for the planet that all people share. Since then, the event has grown into a worldwide movement involving governments, businesses, schools, communities, and millions of individuals. Each year, a different country hosts the event and a specific theme is chosen to focus attention on major environmental challenges, including climate change, air pollution, biodiversity loss, plastic waste, and sustainable living. The day also highlights the seriousness of current environmental problems, including the fact that millions of people around the world are affected by air pollution each year and that natural resources are being consumed faster than they can be replaced. Schools, environmental organizations, and local communities often organize clean-up projects, tree-planting events, educational workshops, and awareness campaigns to inspire positive change. Ultimately, World Environment Day serves as a reminder that everyone has a role to play in protecting the Earth and that by working together, people can help create a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable future for generations to come. To find out more, click [here](#).



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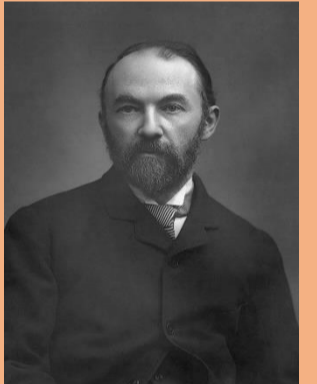
The Environment by Joseph Kerski and Simon Ross

Environmental issues such as possible climate change, pollution, nuclear waste, water resources, food and famine have a high public as well as political profile. The role that humans may have played in causing some of these problems, as well as some of the things we could do to reduce their impact, are also topics of major interest. The Essentials of the Environment presents a fascinating insight into these subjects and many more, providing general information and informed discussion enhanced by international case studies.



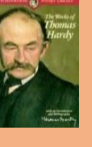
On This Day... Thomas Hardy was born 2nd June 1840

Thomas Hardy was a famous English novelist and poet who is considered one of the most important writers of the Victorian era. Born on June 2, 1840, in Dorset, England, Hardy grew up in a rural environment that later inspired many of his stories. Before becoming a full-time writer, he trained and worked as an architect, but his passion for literature eventually led him to pursue a writing career. Hardy became well known for setting many of his novels in "Wessex," his fictional name for the countryside of southwestern England. His works often explored themes such as love, social class, fate, human suffering, and the struggles people face when trying to overcome society's expectations. Some of his most famous novels include *Far from the Madding Crowd*, *The Mayor of Casterbridge*, *The Return of the Native*, *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*, and *Jude the Obscure*. After receiving criticism for his later novels, Hardy largely stopped writing fiction and focused on poetry, which he considered his greatest passion. He went on to publish several successful collections of poems and the epic poetic drama *The Dynasts*. Following the death of his first wife, Emma, Hardy wrote some of his most emotional and acclaimed poetry, reflecting on love, loss, and regret. Throughout his career, Hardy's writing captured both the beauty of the English countryside and the difficulties of human life, making his work influential for future generations of writers. When he died in 1928 at the age of 87, he was recognised as one of Britain's greatest literary figures, and his legacy continues to be studied and celebrated around the world today. To find out more of Thomas Hardy, click [here](#).



Collected Poems of Thomas Hardy by Thomas Hardy

This Wordsworth Edition includes an exclusive Introduction, Bibliography and Glossary by Michael Irwin, Professor of English Literature University of Kent at Canterbury. Thomas Hardy started composing poetry in the heyday of Tennyson and Browning. He was still writing with unimpaired power sixty years later, when Eliot and Yeats were the leading names in the field. His extraordinary stamina and a consistent individuality of style and vision made him a survivor, immune to literary fashion. At the start of the twenty-first century his reputation stands higher than it ever did, even in his own lifetime. He is now recognised not only as a great poet, but as one who is widely loved. He speaks with directness, humanity and humour to scholarly or ordinary readers alike.



On This Day... Rick Riordan was born 5th June 1964

Rick Riordan is an American author best known for writing the highly successful Percy Jackson and the Olympians series, which combines Greek mythology with modern-day adventures. Born on June 5, 1964, in San Antonio, Texas, Riordan studied history and English at the University of Texas before becoming a middle school teacher. He taught for around 15 years in Texas and California before leaving teaching to focus on writing full-time. Riordan first gained recognition as the author of a mystery series featuring private investigator Tres Navarre, but his greatest success came when he began writing books for young readers. Inspired by bedtime stories he told his son about Greek mythology, Riordan created Percy Jackson, a twelve-year-old boy who discovers he is a demigod and embarks on exciting quests involving gods, monsters, and heroes from ancient myths. The Percy Jackson series became a worldwide bestseller and was later adapted into films and a television series. Following its success, Riordan expanded his fictional universe with several other series, including Heroes of Olympus and The Trials of Apollo, which continue to explore Greek and Roman mythology. He also wrote *The Kane Chronicles*, based on Egyptian mythology, and *Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard*, which focuses on Norse mythology. In addition, he contributed to the popular 39 Clues adventure series and published *Daughter of the Deep*, a modern reimagining of a classic science-fiction story. Through his books, Riordan has introduced millions of young readers to mythology in an engaging and accessible way, making him one of the most influential and widely read children's and young adult authors of the 21st century. To find out more, click [here](#).



Heroes of Olympus: The Last Hero #1 by Rick Riordan

LEO HAS A WAY WITH TOOLS. When he sees his cabin at Camp Half-Blood, filled with power tools and machine parts, he feels right at home. But there's weird stuff, too—like the curse everyone keeps talking about, and some camper who's gone missing. Weirdest of all, his bunkmates insist that each of them—including Leo—is related to a god. Does this have anything to do with Jason's amnesia, or the fact that Leo keeps seeing ghosts?



Magnus Chase and the Sword of Summer #1 by Rick Riordan

My name is Magnus Chase. I'm orphaned and living rough on the streets of Boston. And things are about to get much worse. My day started out normally enough. I was sleeping under a bridge when some guy kicked me awake and said, "They're after you." Next thing I know, I'm reunited with my obnoxious uncle, who casually informs me that my long-lost father is a Norse god. Nothing normal about that. And it turns out the gods of Asgard are preparing for war. Apparently, if I can't find the sword my father lost two thousand years ago, there will be doom. Doomsday, to be precise. A fire giant attacking the city? Immortal warriors hacking each other to pieces? Unkillable wolves with glowing eyes? It's all coming up. But first I'm going to die. This is the story of how my life goes downhill from there...



Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief #1 by Rick Riordan

Percy was just a normal kid, going to school, playing basketball, skateboarding. The usual. Until he accidentally vaporized his maths teacher. Now he spends his time battling monsters and generally trying to stay alive. A task made even more difficult since Zeus, God of the sky, thinks Percy has stolen his lightning bolt.



1st June is Pride Month

Pride Month is celebrated every June to honour the LGBTQ+ community, recognize its history, and promote equality, acceptance, and inclusion. The celebration has its roots in the Stonewall Riots, which began on June 28, 1969, in New York City after police raided the Stonewall Inn, a popular gathering place for LGBTQ+ people. Instead of accepting the discrimination and harassment they regularly faced, members of the community fought back and protested, sparking a movement that became a major turning point in the struggle for LGBTQ+ rights. Activists such as Marsha P. Johnson played an important role in these events and helped inspire future campaigns for equality. One year later, Brenda Howard organized the first Pride parade, which laid the foundation for the Pride celebrations that now take place around the world.



Pride Month also celebrates the progress that has been made in securing equal rights, including important legal and social changes in many countries around the world. However, it reminds people that there is still work to be done to achieve full equality and acceptance for everyone. By learning about LGBTQ+ history and supporting inclusion, people of all backgrounds can help create a society where everyone feels safe, respected, and valued. Ultimately, Pride Month is both a celebration of identity and a reminder of the ongoing fight for human rights, equality, and respect for all. To find out more, click [here](#).

All the Young Men by Ruth Coker Burks and Kevin Carr O'Leary (recommended for older readers)

Tells the true story of a young single mother who finds herself driven to the forefront of the AIDS crisis, and who risks everything to give victims back their humanity



Are You Listening? Vol. 1 by Tillie Walden

This chance encounter sends them on a journey through West Texas, where strange things follow them wherever they go. The landscape morphs into an unsettling world, a mysterious cat joins them, and they are haunted by a group of threatening men. To stay safe, Bea and Lou must trust each other as they are driven to confront buried truths. The two women share their stories of loss and heartbreak—and a startling revelation about sexual assault—culminating in an exquisite example of human connection.



1st June is Black Lives Matter Month

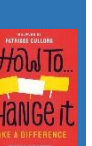
Black Lives Matter Month begins on June 1 and is dedicated to raising awareness about racism, racial inequality, and violence against Black people while promoting justice, equality, and social change. The Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement began in 2013 as a social media hashtag created by activists Alicia Garza, Patrisse Khan-Cullors, and Opal Tometi following the acquittal of the man responsible for the shooting death of Trayvon Martin, an unarmed Black teenager. What started as an online campaign quickly developed into a global movement advocating for racial justice and an end to discrimination and police violence against Black communities. The movement gained national attention in 2014 after the death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, and continued to grow following the deaths of other Black individuals, including Eric Garner, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and George Floyd.



wide, sparked one of the largest protest movements in modern history, leading to demonstrations across the United States and in many countries around the world. Black Lives Matter Month encourages people to learn about the history of racism and civil rights, support organizations working for equality, engage in discussions about injustice, and take positive action within their communities. The month also serves as a reminder of the importance of empathy, respect, and understanding, while highlighting the ongoing efforts to create a society where everyone is treated regardless of their race or background. To find out more, click [here](#).

How to... Change it by Joshua Virasami

Is it possible to create real change? How can we as individuals help to solve some of the biggest issues of today? How can we overcome injustice and inequality wherever we are? Where does power sit, and how can we get it? How to Change It provides the answers to these questions, and many more. In three simple steps - educate, organise and agitate - artist and organiser Joshua Virasami sets out several lessons for successful campaigning, drawing on the experience and actions of a number of activist and political movements, including Extinction Rebellion, Occupy and Black Lives Matter.



Tyler Johnson was Here by Jay Coles

When Marvin Johnson's twin, Tyler, goes to a party, Marvin decides to tag along to keep an eye on his brother. But what starts as harmless fun turns into a shooting, followed by a police raid. The next day, Tyler has gone missing, and it's up to Marvin to find him. But when Tyler is found dead, a video leaked online tells an even more chilling story: Tyler has been shot and killed by a police officer. Terrified as his mother unravels and mourning a brother who is now a hashtag, Marvin must learn what justice and freedom really mean.

