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



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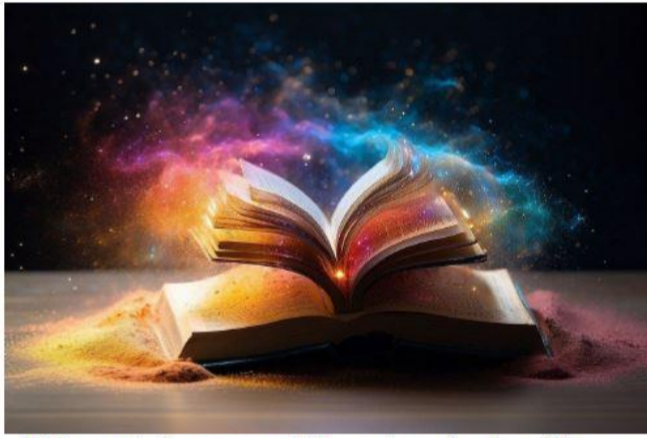
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Orpington Library's Younger Teens Reading Group

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!

On This Day in History... The Birth of Angela Carter, 7th May 1940



British feminist author Angela Carter was born on May 7, 1940 and passed away in 1992 after developing lung cancer at the age of 51. Despite her death occurring over 30 years ago, Carters' tales of magical realism and unique ideas remain popular and continue to inspire books, plays, and events. Over the past few years, several new books have been released about her life and work including, *Angela Carter and Western Philosophy* by Heidi Yeantle and *Seduced by Japan: A Memoir of the Days Spent with Angela Carter*, a memoir penned by her former partner Natsumi Ikoma. Some of Carter's most famous stories were recently republished in a new collection, and there have been several stage plays based on her writing. One such is *The Lizzie Play* which was adapted from Carter's *The Fall Rivers Axe Murders* and based on the real story of Lizzie Borden. A play based on Carter's final novel *Wise Children* debuted at London's Old Vic in 2018. Carter's stories are chaotic and darkly funny, with wild characters and unusual plots. Her writing

often encouraged women to think about their roles in society and to examine how they may be affected by the patriarchy. Carter frequently used bold, sometimes shocking, language to portray the lives of women honestly and powerfully. Angela Carter may be gone but her legacy is far-reaching, with academics and casual consumers still reading, studying, and performing her work all over the world.

The Bloody Chamber by Angela Carter
(Recommended for Older Readers)

From familiar fairy tales and legends - Red Riding Hood, Bluebeard, Puss in Boots, Beauty and the Beast, vampires and werewolves - Angela Carter has created an absorbing collection of dark, sensual, fantastic stories.



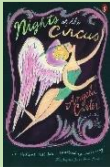
The Magic Toyshop by Angela Carter
(Recommended for Older Readers)

One night Melanie walks through the garden in her mother's wedding dress. The next morning her world is shattered. Forced to leave the home of her childhood, she is sent to live with relatives she has never met: gentle Aunt Margaret, mute since her wedding day; and her brothers, Francie and Finn. Brooding over all is Uncle Philip, who loves only the toys he makes in his workshop: clockwork roses and puppets that are life-size - and uncannily life-like.



Nights at the Circus by Angela Carter
(Recommended for Older Readers)

Is Sophie Fevers, toast of Europe's capitals, part swan...or all fake? Courtied by the Prince of Wales and painted by Toulouse-Lautrec, she is an aerialiste extraordinaire and star of Colonel Kearney's circus. She is also part woman, part swan. Jack Walsler, an American journalist, is on a quest to discover the truth behind her identity. Dazzled by his love for her, and desperate for the scoop of a lifetime, Walsler has no choice but to join the circus on its magical tour through turn-of-the-nineteenth-century London, St Petersburg and Siberia.



"To dare is to lose one's footing momentarily. Not to dare is to lose oneself." – Søren Kierkegaard

NEW



Stars and Smoke by Marie Lu

Global phenomenon Winter Young is the pop star of a generation. With sell-out tours and smash-hit records, everyone wants him or wants to be him. That's why a top-secret government organisation think he'll make the perfect spy. His target is infamous business tycoon, and all-round bad guy, Eli Morrison. Because Morrison's daughter has just one birthday wish: a private concert with Winter Young. Winter must use his stardom to crack his target's inner circle and bring Morrison down. With him will be expert spy, and expert bad-ass, Sydney Cossette - and she's convinced Winter doesn't have what it takes. But as the stakes get higher and the tension ramps up, Sydney and Winter might find their best chance is each other...

Young Bond #1: SilverFin by Charlie Higson

Before the name became a legend. Before the boy became a man. Meet Bond. James Bond. There's something in the water at Loch Silverfin. Something deadly. Something that must be kept secret... It's James Bond's first day at Eton, and he's already met his first enemy. This is the start of an adventure that will take him from the school playing fields to the remote shores of Loch Silverfin and a terrifying discovery that threatens to unleash a new breed of warfare.

Welcome to Camp Killer by Cynthia Murphy

When an American-style residential camp is set up in the grounds of an English stately home, the teenage camp counsellors are looking forward to a fun summer of activities. But right from the outset, things don't feel quite right at Camp Miller. Rumours circulate of a tragedy that took place in the grounds and there are unexplained sightings of a ghostly presence. Then the incidents begin – a near-drowning out on the lake, a fatal fall from a cliff-face ... Are these tragic accidents or is there something more sinister going on at Camp Killer?

The Burning Kingdoms #3: The Lotus Empire by Tasha Suri

Malini has claimed her rightful throne as the empress of Parijatdvipa, just as the nameless gods prophesied. Now, in order to gain the support of the priesthood who remain loyal to the fallen emperor, she must consider a terrible Claim her throne and burn in order to seal her legacy—or find another willing to take her place on the pyre. Priya has survived the deathless waters and now her magic runs in her veins. But a mysterious yaksha with flowering eyes and a mouth of thorns lies beneath the waters. The yaksha promises protection for Ahiranya. But in exchange, she needs a sacrifice. And she's chosen Priya as the one to offer it. Two women once entwined by fate now stand against each other. But when an ancient enemy rises to threaten their world, Priya and Malini will find themselves fighting together once more – to prevent their kingdoms, and their futures, from burning to ash.



The Last Tree on Easter Island by Jared Diamond

Over the past 75 years, a new canon has emerged. As life on Earth has become irrevocably altered by humans, visionary thinkers around the world have raised their voices to defend the planet, and affirm our place at the heart of its restoration. Their words have endured through the decades, becoming the classics of a movement. Together, these books show the richness of environmental thought, and point the way to a fairer, saner, greener world.

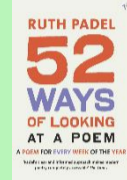


Endless Forms: Why We Should Love Wasps by Seirian Sumner

With endless surprises, this book might teach you about the wasps that spend their entire lives sealed inside a fig, about stinging wasps, about parasitic wasps, about wasps that turn cockroaches into living zombies, about how wasps taught us to make paper. It offers up a maligned insect in all its diverse, unexpected splendour; as both predator and pollinator, the wasp is an essential pest controller worldwide. Inside their sophisticated social worlds is the best model we have for the earth's major evolutionary transitions. In their understudied biology are clues to progressing medicine, including a possible cure for cancer. The closer you look at these spurned, winged insects – both custodians and bouncers of our planet – the more you see. Their secrets have so far gone mostly untapped, but the potential of the wasp is endless.

52 Ways of Looking at a Poem by Ruth Padel

British poetry is in a wonderful state at present. Never have so many poets been saying so many interesting things in such lively, up-to-date ways. Yet many people feel shut out or know little about poetry and have no idea where to begin. In this groundbreaking book, Ruth Padel takes fifty-two of the poems she discussed in her newspaper column - a year's worth - and suggests ways of reading them. The poems are by a wide range of living poets, an experiences we all share - love, sex, death, nature, history, war - which show how reading a poem can enhance everyone's life as powerfully and as pleasurably as reading novels or watching a film.

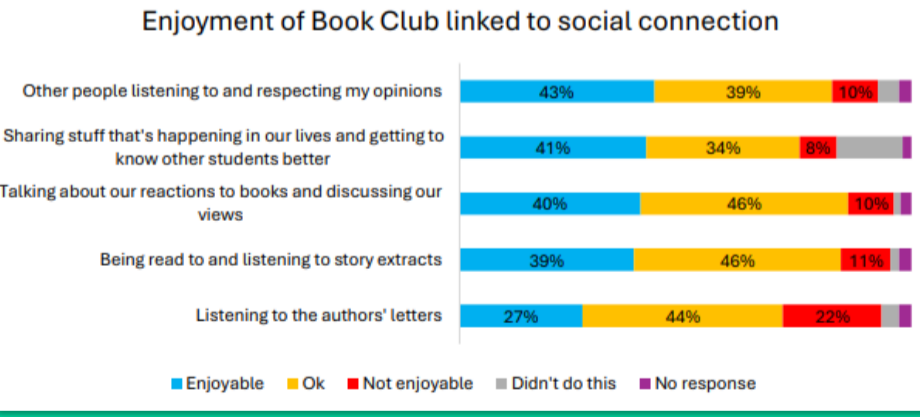
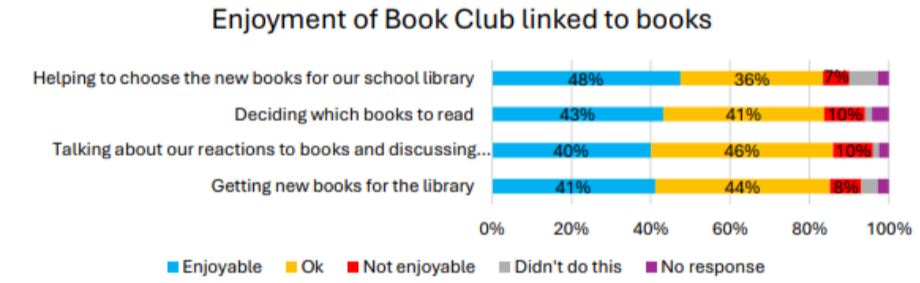
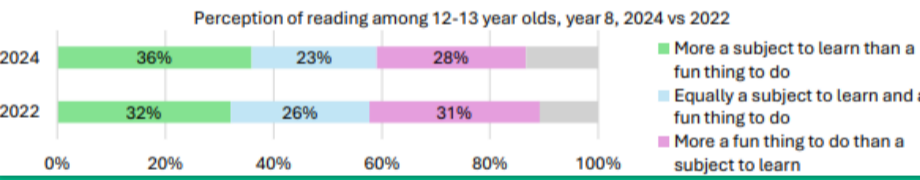
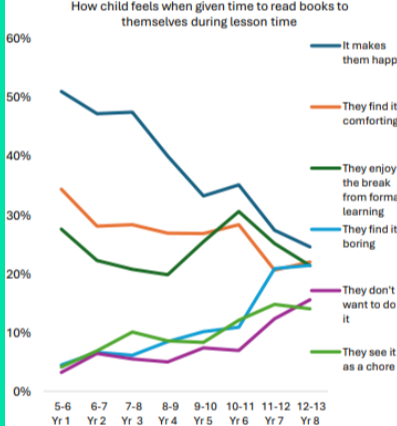


Fairy Tale by Stephen King
(Recommended for Older Readers)

Charlie Reade looks like a regular high school kid, great at baseball and football, a decent student. But when Charlie is seventeen, he meets a dog named Radar and her aging master, Howard Bowditch, a recluse in a big house at the top of a big hill, with a locked shed in the backyard. When Bowditch dies, he leaves Charlie a cassette tape telling a story no one would believe - inside the shed is a portal to another world.

Social Reading Spaces Report Findings Published

The Social Reading Spaces study, which took place over 12 weeks between October 2024 and February 2025, trialled an innovative new approach to book clubs. 17 school libraries across the UK hosted social book clubs with no expectation or pressure on the children and young people who attended to read, instead aiming to foster conversations and book talk in a relaxed and pressure-free setting. The clubs targeted reluctant readers aged 12-13 (Year 8) where it was found only 12% of boys and 23% of girls aged 12-13 read for pleasure "every day or nearly every day". Of the over 400 children who took part, 84% said it was a worthwhile experience and 60% said they were more interested in books and reading after the study. The graphs included here are taken from the report. You can read the full report [here](#).



Global Accessibility Awareness Day – 15th May

In 2011, web developer Joe Devon wrote a blog post expressing a simple but powerful idea: the internet should be accessible to everyone, including people with disabilities. This idea led to the first Global Accessibility Awareness Day (GAAD) in 2012, co-founded by Joe and accessibility expert Jennison Asuncion. GAAD is now observed every year around the world to raise awareness about making websites, apps, and tech easier for everyone to use. It reminds us that for over a billion people with disabilities, using the internet can throw up challenges. The goal of GAAD is to inspire developers and content creators to make digital spaces more inclusive, whether that's through small changes or big improvements. It's a reminder that an accessible internet benefits everyone. Click [here](#) to find out more.



Everything, Everything by Nicola Yoon

Maddy is allergic to the world; stepping outside the sterile sanctuary of her home could kill her. But then Ollie moves in next door. And just like that, Maddy realizes there's more to life than just being alive. You only get one chance at first love. And Maddy is ready to risk everything, everything to see where it leads.

Because You'll Never Meet Me by Leah Thomas

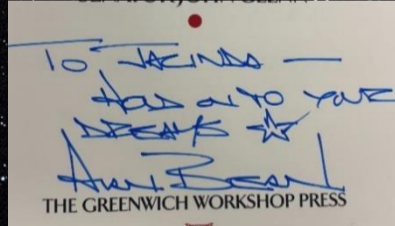
Ollie and Moritz are two teenagers who will never meet. Each of them lives with a life-affecting illness. Contact with electricity sends Ollie into debilitating seizures, while Moritz has a heart defect and is kept alive by an electronic pacemaker. If they did meet, Ollie would seize, but turning off the pacemaker would kill Moritz. Through an exchange of letters, the two boys develop a strong bond of friendship which becomes a lifeline during dark times - until Moritz reveals that he holds the key to their shared, sinister past, and has been keeping it from Ollie all along.

Astronaut Alan Bean's Signature Discovered in Newstead Library Book



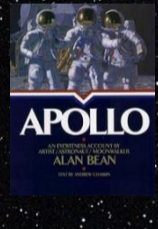
American Astronaut Alan LaVern Bean was the fourth person ever to walk on the Moon. Born in 1932 and selected by NASA in 1963 as part of Astronaut Group 3, Bean spent over seven hours walking on the Moon during two lunar excursions in 1969. Bean and fellow astronaut Pete Conrad landed on the Moon's Ocean of Storms in November that year, following a flight of 250,000 miles. Bean and Conrad explored the lunar surface and installed the first nuclear power generator station on the Moon to provide a power source. In 1981, Alan Bean resigned from NASA to devote his time to painting. He reasoned that 'in his 18 years as an astronaut, he was fortunate enough to visit worlds and see sights no artist's eye, past or present, has ever viewed firsthand and he hoped to express these experiences through his art.'

In 1998, Bean published a unique memoir recounting his time in space, richly illustrated with his own incredible paintings. We have a copy of this book in the library, and Mrs Willis in the science department recently discovered that, excitingly, it has been signed by Bean himself. The autograph is dedicated to 'Jacinda' - we are unable to find out who Jacinda is, or was, so if anyone has any incite as to her identity, please do let us know! Alan Bean passed away in 2018 at the age of 86.

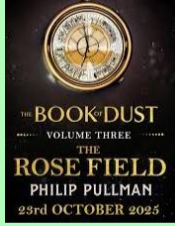


Apollo: An Eyewitness Account by Astronaut/ Explorer/ Artist/ Moonwalker Alan Bean by Alan Bean

For most of us moonwalking was a technological wonder, but Alan Bean is painting Apollo's human adventure. His "art off this world" is both visionary and historic. Alan Bean is like the explorer-artists of the nineteenth century, Albert Bierstadt and Thomas Moran, whose spectacular landscapes conjured up a western myth and beckoned city dwellers in the east. Apollo chronicles the adventures, the dreams, and the characters who lived them. In the world of space, Bean's very personal record of a unique time in our history shares the stories, memorializes the heroes both in space and on the ground, and paints the landscape of a world only twelve astronauts have ever visited.



Philip Pullman Announces Final Lyra Novel



Renowned fantasy author Philip Pullman has announced the final book in his *Book of Dust* trilogy. This latest novel is titled *The Rose Field* and will be published on October 23rd. *The Rose Field* will pick up where the previous novel left off, following protagonist Lyra Belacqua as she navigates a ruined city searching for her daemon companion. Now in her early 20s, Lyra first appeared as an 11-year-old in Pullman's *His Dark Materials* series, the first of which was released in 1995. *The Book of Dust* trilogy expands on the original series of books, featuring one

prequel and two sequels. This instalment will reveal more about the mysterious substance "Dust", which has been a key part of the series. Across the novel Lyra will meet with spies, witches, and more. Pullman says the story will also reflect on modern issues such as the power of billionaires, tech companies, and climate change: it will be a coming-of-age story incorporating the vision of a changing world. The book was announced following a campaign by Waterstones, during which a golden compass (a key image from the series) was projected onto buildings in several locations. Pullman, now 78, said he is relieved to have "come out of the end alive and able to see [the story] being made into a book and published." He plans to write a memoir next, looking back on his life and reflecting on the many changes he's seen over the years. Click [here](#) to read the original BBC article.



His Dark Materials #1: Northern Lights by Philip Pullman

When Lyra's friend Roger disappears, she and her daemon, Pantalaimon, determine to find him. The ensuing quest leads them to the bleak splendor of the North, where armoured bears rule the ice and witch-queens fly through the frozen skies - and where a team of scientists is conducting experiments too horrible to speak about. Lyra overcomes these strange terrors, only to find something yet more perilous waiting for her - something with consequences which may even reach beyond the Northern Lights.



The Book of Dust #1: La Belle Sauvage by Philip Pullman

Eleven-year-old Malcolm Polstead and his daemon, Asta, live with his parents at the Trout Inn near Oxford. Across the River Thames (which Malcolm navigates often using his beloved canoe, a boat by the name of La Belle Sauvage) is the Godstow Priory where the nuns live. Malcolm learns they have a guest with them; a baby by the name of Lyra Belacqua...



The Book of Dust #2: The Secret Commonweath by Philip Pullman

The second volume of Sir Philip Pullman's *The Book of Dust* sees Lyra, now twenty years old, and her daemon Pantalaimon, forced to navigate their relationship in a way they could never have imagined, and drawn into the complex and dangerous factions of a world that they had no idea existed. Pulled along on his own journey too is Malcolm; once a boy with a boat and a mission to save a baby from the flood, now a man with a strong sense of duty and a desire to do what is right. There's a world at once familiar and extraordinary, and they must travel far beyond the edges of Oxford, across Europe and into Asia, in search for what is lost - a city haunted by daemons, a secret at the heart of a desert, and the mystery of the elusive Dust.