

# Read All Over

Newstead Wood School

Library

Bulletin



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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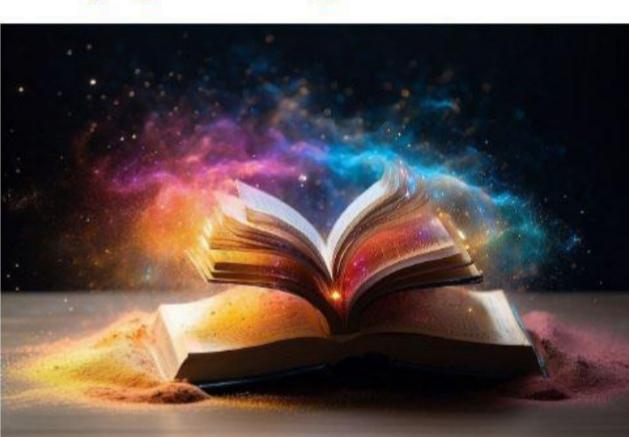
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## Orpington Library's Younger Teens Reading Group

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)

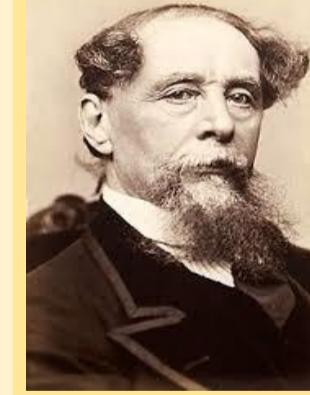
Meetings are once a month on a Monday from 5:30-6:30pm, during term time, for ages 11-14 years

We look forward to seeing you!



## On This Day... Charles Dickens was born 7<sup>th</sup> February 1812

Charles John Huffam Dickens was a famous English novelist whose stories became well known around the world for their memorable characters and strong messages about society. He was born on February 7, 1812, in Portsmouth, England, and grew up as the second of eight children in a family that moved frequently because of his father's job with the Navy Pay Office. Dickens loved reading from a young age, especially imaginative stories like *The Arabian Nights*, which helped shape his creativity. Despite facing many hardships, including family financial struggles, he began his writing career in the early 1830s, first working at the House of Commons and later publishing his first short story in 1833. His success grew quickly, and by the late 1830s he had published *Oliver Twist*, a groundbreaking Victorian novel featuring a child protagonist. Over the years, Dickens wrote many famous works, including *A Christmas Carol*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, and *Great Expectations*, which explored themes such as poverty, injustice, and kindness. He married Catherine Hogarth and had ten children, though their marriage ended in separation, and he later had a relationship with Ellen Ternan. Dickens continued writing until his death in 1870 after suffering a stroke, leaving his final novel unfinished, but his powerful storytelling and influence on literature continue to be celebrated today.



### *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens

*Ebenezer Scrooge* is a miserly and mean-spirited old man. He treats family, coworkers, and strangers alike with distaste. On Christmas Eve he receives a visit from the ghost of his dead business partner, Jacob Marley. Marley warns Scrooge that unless he learns to be less greedy and self-serving that Scrooge will be condemned to wander Earth weighed down with heavy chains, as Marley has been.

### *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens

Pip doesn't expect much from life... His sister makes it clear that her orphaned little brother is nothing but a burden on her. But suddenly things begin to change. Pip's narrow existence is blown apart when he finds an escaped criminal, is summoned to visit a mysterious old woman and meets the icy beauty Estella. Most astoundingly of all, an anonymous person gives him money to begin a new life in London.

### *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens

The story of Oliver Twist - orphaned and set upon by evil and adversity from his first breath - shocked readers when it was published. After running away from the workhouse and pompous beadle Mr Bumble, Oliver finds himself lured into a den of thieves peopled by vivid and memorable characters - the Artful Dodger, vicious burglar Bill Sikes, his dog Bull's Eye, and prostitute Nancy, all watched over by cunning master-thief Fagin.

## SPRING

"We were just two teenagers, looking up at the sky on a cold, February night...." - Jenny Han

NEW

### *Undercover Gamer: Marie Curious #3* by Chris Edison

Marie's apprenticeship with tech giant Sterling Vance has already been a crazy adventure, from saving the world from a deadly computer virus to rescuing a global pop star, Marie thought she'd seen it all. But now Marie must face her most difficult challenge yet - going undercover! When Vance invests in a multi-million-dollar esports tournament, Marie and her three best friends are sucked into the world of professional gaming. Glitz parties, infinity pools and the latest tech are all at their fingertips, but when Vance discovers that someone in the tournament is cheating, it's left to Marie to infiltrate the GAME House where all the top gamers live, and find the culprit.



### *Mister Pip* by Lloyd Jones

Bougainville, 1991. A small village on a lush tropical island in the South Pacific. Eighty-six days have passed since Matilda's last day of school as, quietly, war is encroaching from the other end of the island. When the villagers' safe, predictable lives come to a halt, Bougainville's children are surprised to find the island's only white man, a recluse, re-opening the school. Pop Eye, aka Mr Watts, explains he will introduce the children to Mr Dickens. Matilda and the others think a foreigner is coming to the island and prepare a list of much needed items. They are shocked to discover their acquaintance with Mr Dickens will be through Mr Watts' inspiring reading of *Great Expectations*.

### *The Last Firefox #1* by Lee Newbury

You need to be brave for yourself before you can be brave for other people... Between bullies at school and changes at home, Charlie Challinor finds life a bit scary. And when he's made guardian of a furry fox cub called Cadno, things get a whole lot scarier. Because Cadno isn't just any fox: he's a Firefox - the only one of his kind - and a sinister hunter from another world is hot on his trail.



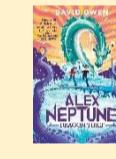
### *The Last Life of Lori Mills* by Max Boucherat

Eleven-year-old Lori is alone for the first time in her life, and she's immediately done all the things she's totally not allowed to do: 1. Turned the heating up to the max. 2. Built a giant blanket fort in the living room. 3. Switched on Voxminer, aka the greatest game in the history of the universe. But quickly, Lori realises something is wrong. She can hear strange whispers coming from the screen - and soon, they're in the house with her. Could it be Voxminer's most terrifying legend: Shade Girl? Trapped in her home as the doors and windows start to vanish and her phone goes dead, Lori must use all her bravery, wits, gaming skills - and the love and deep bond she shares with her BFF, Shoelace - to survive until Mum gets home...



### *Alex Neptune: Dragon Thief #1* by David Owen

For as long as Alex Neptune can remember, the ocean has been trying to kill him. So he's not too happy when a bunch of sea creatures drag him to the abandoned aquarium on the hill, where an imprisoned water dragon needs his help. But how can he say no to a magical myth? Recruiting his tech-genius best friend Zoey, legend-lover Anil, a sharp-shooting octopus, four acrobatic otters and a thieving seagull, Alex plots a heist to break the dragon out. And suddenly discovers the power of the ocean at his fingertips.



### *The Pearl in the Ice* by Cathryn Constable

Twelve-year-old Marina feels an irresistible pull to the sea despite the strict wishes of her father, a naval commander, who's kept her away from water all her life. When she's sent to boarding school, Marina instead stows away on her father's ship. Unbeknown to her, it's the eve of war and she's embarked on a stormy voyage through icy seas to where a great secret lies in wait ...

## Star Borrowers of January 2026

### Year 7

Jessica 7G  
 Anisha 7G  
 Aarna 7N  
 Khadijah 7W  
 Jasveen 7W  
 Eva 7W  
 Yasmin 7W

### Year 8

Rosie 8G  
 Phoebe 8N  
 Nyra 8P  
 Rowan 8P  
 Bade 8S  
 Elana 8S  
 Aanya 8S  
 Deetya 8W

### Year 9

Anvi 9F  
 Mehr 9G  
 Neevh 9N  
 Florence 9N  
 Abipreeta 9N  
 Amélie 9N  
 Rebecca 9P  
 Amy 9S  
 Janesha 9S  
 Charis 9S  
 Ananya 9W  
 Aaradhna 9W  
 Simran 9W

### Year 10

Avni 10F  
 Anushka 10F  
 Dhiviyaa 10G  
 Maya 10N  
 Valerie 10P  
 Saanvi 10P  
 Senumi 10S  
 Akshara 10W  
 Anwita 10W  
 Madeleine 10W

### Year 12

Lucy 12F  
 Oluwatoni 12H  
 Kitty 12H  
 Polina 12P  
 Valen 12P  
 Anthiya 12S  
 Jasreet 12Q

### Year 13

Archaga 13P  
 Melody 13Q  
 Paula 13S  
 Preksha 13W

## Top 10 Books of January



## 4<sup>th</sup> February is... National Girls and Women in Sports Day

National Girls and Women in Sports Day (N.G.W.S.D.), observed on February 4, is a day dedicated to challenging gender stereotypes in sports and reminding everyone that girls and women belong in every part of the sports world. It encourages girls who may have felt excluded or underestimated to be confident, fearless, and proud to "play like a girl," celebrating strength and skill rather than limiting labels. The day was first observed in 1987 in honour of Olympic volleyball player Flo Hyman, who was a powerful advocate for equal opportunities for women in sports and whose legacy continues after her death from Marfan syndrome. Over time, N.G.W.S.D. has grown to celebrate the achievements of all women athletes, highlight the benefits of inclusion, and address ongoing challenges to equal participation. It also recognizes the importance of Title IX, a 1972 civil rights law that required equal opportunities in federally funded programs, including school sports, which dramatically increased the number of girls able to participate in athletics. In the United Kingdom, National Girls and Women in Sports Day strongly connects to the country's ongoing efforts to increase female participation and visibility in sports at all levels. Historically, girls in the UK faced limited opportunities and social expectations that discouraged them from being physically active, but this has gradually changed through advocacy, education, and role models. By celebrating female athletes, supporting grassroots programs, and encouraging girls to stay active and confident, the UK continues to move toward a sports culture where girls and women are equally valued, supported, and inspired to participate without fear or limitation. To find out more, click [here](#).

**Sporting Females: Critical Issues in the History of Women's Sports** by Jennifer Hargreaves

An outstanding contribution to feminist analysis of sport from the nineteenth century to the present day. Jennifer Hargreaves views sport as a battle for control of the physical body and an important area for feminist intervention. Placing women at the centre of discussion, no other book is as comprehensive.

**Roller Girl** by Victoria Jamieson

Twelve-year-old Astrid has always done everything with her best friend Nicole. So, when Astrid signs up for roller derby camp, she assumes Nicole will too. But Nicole signs up for dance camp with a new friend instead and so begins the toughest summer of Astrid's life. There are bumps and bruises as Astrid learns who she is without Nicole... and what it takes to be a strong, tough roller girl.

**Rowing It Alone: One Woman's Extraordinary Transatlantic Adventure** by Debra Veal

This is Debra's account of over three months alone at sea - the gruelling road, loneliness, beauty of nature, and support from hundreds of well-wishers. Debra also shares her reflections and the insights into her relationship with her husband, as well as describing how she discovered unknown strengths and aspects of herself. A fascinating account of an inner and outer journey.



## International Week of Black Women in the Arts

International Week of Black Women in the Arts is observed every year in the United States from February 7 to February 15 and is dedicated to celebrating the creativity, achievements, and influence of Black female artists across many fields, including music, visual arts, literature, dance, film, and theatre. The week also raises awareness about the serious inequalities these artists continue to face, such as being underpaid, underrepresented, and overlooked despite their talent and contributions. Although women make up about half of all visual artists, their work appears in only a small percentage of museum collections and exhibitions, and the situation is even more unfair for Black women, who experience both gender and racial discrimination. Black women are also less likely to hold leadership roles in the arts, such as directors, producers, composers, or record label executives, and Black female authors often receive fewer reviews, awards, and publishing opportunities, sometimes even feeling pressured to hide their identity by using initials or pseudonyms. International Week of Black Women in the Arts highlights this long history of struggle and success, from pioneers like sculptor Mary Edmonia Lewis in the 19th century, to the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s, to Hattie McDaniel becoming the first Black person to win an Academy Award in 1939. By encouraging people to discover new artists, support their work, and promote equal access to education and scholarships, the week aims to create a more inclusive arts world where Black women receive the recognition, respect, and opportunities they deserve.



### *African Art and Culture* by Jane Bingham

Written for students working at Key Stage 3, the titles that make up the 'World Art and Culture' series explore the fine arts, the decorative arts and design through the ages and in different cultures throughout the world. This volume considers African culture.



### *Art and Craft in Africa* by Laure Meyer

Chosen from more than 100 ethnic groups and presented by theme, these magnificent objects express a wealth of aesthetic and technical solutions.



### *Black Art: A Cultural History* by Richard J. Powell

Placing its emphasis on black cultural themes rather than on black racial identity, this groundbreaking book is an important exploration of the visual representations of black culture throughout the twentieth century and into the twenty-first.

