



SPRING

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



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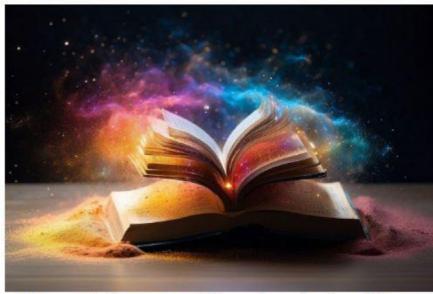
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Orpington Library's Younger Teens Reading Group

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!



NEW

Skellig #1 by David Almond
Unhappy about his baby sister's illness and the chaos of moving into a dilapidated old house, Michael retreats to the garage and finds a mysterious stranger who is something like a bird and something like an angel...



The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupery
A pilot stranded in the desert awakes one morning to see, standing before him, the most extraordinary little fellow. "Please," asks the stranger, "draw me a sheep." And the pilot realizes that when life's events are too difficult to understand, there is no choice but to succumb to their mysteries. He pulls out pencil and paper... And thus begins this wise and enchanting fable that, in teaching the secret of what is really important in life, has changed forever the world for its readers.

The Haven #1 by Simon Lelic
Alone. On the run. Ollie Turner has nowhere to hide. But he gets a second chance. Underneath the city there's a secret organisation, far from adult eyes. It's called The Haven. Soon Ollie is caught up in their battle: to stop Maddy Sikes destroying the city. Time is running out for Ollie and his new friends, and millions of lives are at stake.



The Sinclair's Mysteries: The Painted Dragon #3 by Katherine Woodfine
When a priceless painting is stolen, our dauntless heroines, Sophie and Lil, find themselves faced with forgery, trickery and deceit on all sides!

The Hounds of Penhallow Hall: The Lost Treasure by Holly Webb
Polly and her new ghostly friends William, Rex and Magnus wake Li-Mei, the Chinese porcelain Fu Dog from the Red Drawing Room. The little Pekinese tells them her adventures with Sarah Penhallow - how they investigated rumours of smugglers and sighted a ghostly Green Lady down at the cove. But when Polly looks at the family portrait she realises that there were actually two dogs. Eventually, Li-Mei reveals that she had a companion, Han, but she thinks that he drowned down by the cove. Together, the friends set off to solve the mystery once and for all.



We Are the Beaker Girls by Jacqueline Wilson
Jess is looking for a fantastic new boyfriend for her mum (mostly because Tracy's awful ex Sean is back on the scene). But Jess has bigger problems of her own. She's being picked on by a local kid who's got it in for her. But when Jess uncovers the truth about her new enemy, it means big changes for the Beaker Girls...

Clover Moon by Jacqueline Wilson
Clover Moon lives in Cripps Alley, a grimy backstreet of Victorian London, with six younger siblings, her weary father and his sharp-tongued, uncaring second wife. Devoted to her sister Megs, sparkly and imaginative Clover is quick to learn her letters and loves to get a chance to paint and draw. But, despite her talents, she is condemned to a life as a household skivvy. Then a chance meeting with an artist gives her an inspiring glimpse of another world -- and an idea of how she might find it...



The Illustrated Mum by Jacqueline Wilson
Dolphin adores her mum - she's beautiful and vibrant. She's covered in colourful tattoos and with her bright hair and amazing clothes, Marigold stands out, wherever she goes. But her sister, Star, feels differently. Marigold may look great, but living with her unpredictable, fiery moods can be hard. After Marigold has a breakdown, Dolphin starts to wonder...is she the right person to be looking after her?

Black Lives Matter Day is February 26th

Black Lives Matter Day is celebrated on February 26 to honour the memory of Trayvon Martin, a 17-year-old African American teenager who was shot and killed in Florida in 2012. When the man who killed him, George Zimmerman, was found not guilty in court, many people across the United States felt anger and sadness, which helped spark a nationwide movement demanding fairness and justice for Black people. The phrase "Black Lives Matter" became a powerful chant against racial discrimination, violence, and unequal treatment faced by Black communities. In the United States, slavery officially ended after the Civil War, but discrimination and hate crimes continued, fuelled by beliefs in white superiority. Over time, many incidents of violence



against Black individuals, including the 2020 killing of George Floyd by a police officer in Minneapolis, brought even greater attention to racial injustice. The roots of the movement can also be connected to the broader Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s, when leaders like Martin Luther King Jr. fought to end segregation and secure equal rights under the law. Officially rising in 2013 after Zimmerman's acquittal, Black Lives Matter grew into an international movement supported by many organisations and millions of individuals who call for equality, accountability, and an end to systemic racism. To find out more, click [here](#).

Punching the Air by Ibi Aanu Zoboi

Amal Shahid has always been an artist and a poet. But even in a diverse art school, he's seen as disruptive and unmotivated by a biased system. Then one fateful night, an altercation in a gentrifying neighborhood escalates into tragedy. "Boys just being boys" turns out to be true only when those boys are white. The story that I think will be my life starts today. Suddenly, at just sixteen years old, Amal's bright future is upended: he is convicted of a crime he didn't commit and sent to prison. Despair and rage almost sink him until he turns to the refuge of his words, his art.



Black British Lives Matter by Lenny Henry

In response to the international outcry at George Floyd's death, Lenny Henry and Marcus Ryder have commissioned this collection of essays to discuss how and why we need to fight for Black lives to matter - not just for Black people but for society as a whole. Recognising Black British experience within the Black Lives Matter movement, seventeen prominent Black figures explain why Black lives should be celebrated when too often they are undervalued.



On This Day... Rainbow Rowell was born 24th February 1973

Rainbow Rowell was born on February 24, 1973, in Nebraska and grew up in rural areas, sometimes living in poverty without reliable electricity or running water. She has spoken about having a difficult childhood, with a father who struggled with addiction and was often absent, while her mother encouraged her love of reading and provided stability. In high school and college, Rowell developed her writing skills through journalism, later working as a columnist and ad copywriter for the Omaha World-Herald from 1995 to 2012. After leaving journalism, she began writing novels, publishing her first adult book, Attachments, in 2011, followed by other adult novels like Landline. She became especially well known for her young adult fiction, including Eleanor & Park, a story about two misfit teens that received critical praise but was also challenged in some schools for its mature themes. Another popular novel, Fangirl, explores fan fiction and college life, and later inspired her fantasy-based Simon Snow trilogy, which begins with Carry On. In addition to novels,



Rowell has written comics for Marvel Comics, including series such as Runaways and She-Hulk. Her books often focus on first love, identity, belonging, and characters who feel like outsiders, and they have earned major honors, including a Michael L. Printz Honor for Eleanor & Park. Despite facing censorship challenges, Rowell has defended her work by saying that it reflects real issues teens face and can help build empathy and understanding. She currently lives in Omaha, Nebraska, with her husband and two sons, and continues to write novels for both adult and young readers.

Pumpkinheads by Rainbow Rowell

Josiah's ready to spend the whole night feeling melancholy about it. Deja isn't ready to let him. She's got a plan: What if instead of moping they went out with a bang? They could see all the sights! Taste all the snacks! And Josiah could finally talk to that cute girl he's been mooning over for three years...



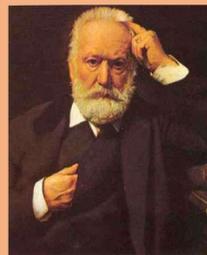
Carry on #1 by Rainbow Rowell

Simon Snow just wants to relax and savour his last year at the Watford School of Magicks, but no one will let him. His girlfriend broke up with him, his best friend is a pest and his mentor keeps trying to hide him away in the mountains where maybe he'll be safe. Simon can't even enjoy the fact that his room-mate and longtime nemesis is missing, because he can't stop worrying about the evil git. Plus there are ghosts. And vampires. And actual evil things trying to shut Simon down.



On This Day... Victor Hugo was born 26th February 1802

Victor Hugo (1802–1885) was one of the most important writers of the French Romantic movement and is considered one of France's greatest literary figures. Born in Besancon, France, he had a difficult and unsettled childhood because his father was a general in Napoleon's army and his parents had strong political differences. Although he studied law in Paris, Hugo was far more interested in writing poetry and plays, and by his early twenties he was already publishing poems and novels. He became a leader of Romanticism with works like the play *Cromwell*, whose preface argued that drama should mix tragedy and comedy just like real life, inspired partly by the works of William Shakespeare. Hugo gained worldwide fame with his historical novel *Notre-Dame de Paris* (also known as *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame*), which brought medieval Paris to life, and later with *Les Misérables*, the powerful story of Jean Valjean, a former prisoner struggling to live a good and honest life in a harsh society. Alongside his writing career, Hugo was deeply involved in politics, supporting freedom of the press and social justice; after criticizing Napoleon III, he spent nearly 20 years in exile on the Channel Islands, where he continued to write poetry and novels attacking injustice and defending human rights. Personal tragedy, including the drowning of his daughter Léopoldine, deeply influenced his emotional poetry. Over his lifetime, Hugo wrote poems, plays, novels, and political essays that explored themes such as love, poverty, revolution, faith, and the fight between good and evil. When he died in 1885 in Paris, he was honoured as a national hero, and his works remain widely read around the world for their dramatic storytelling, memorable characters, and strong messages about compassion and social change. To find out more on Victor Hugo, click [here](#).



Les Misérables by Victor Hugo

Coloured by Hugo's distinctive philosophy, it is a plea for social justice, political enlightenment and personal charity which continues to speak with the undiminished authority more than a century after its first appearance.



The Hunchback of Notre-Dame by Victor Hugo

Rejected by fifteenth-century Parisian society, the hideously deformed bell-ringer Quasimodo believes he is safe under the watchful eye of his master, the Archdeacon Claude Frollo. But after Quasimodo saves the beautiful Romani girl Esmeralda from the gallows and brings her to sanctuary in the cathedral, his and Frollo's mutual desire for her puts them increasingly at odds, before compassion and cruelty clash with tragic results.



Manga Classics: Les Misérables by Victor Hugo and Cristal Silvermoon

A classic story of love and tragedy set in the 19th century France. Adapted for stage and screen, loved by millions, Victor Hugo's classic novel of love & tragedy during the French Revolution is reborn in this fantastic new manga edition! The gorgeous art of TseMei Lee brings to life the tragic stories of Jean Valjean, Inspector Javert, and the beautiful Fantine, in this epic adaptation of Les Misérables!



February 28th is... Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day

Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day is celebrated each year during Engineering Week, and in 2026 it falls on February 26. The day was established in 1951 by the National Society of Professional Engineers to promote interest in engineering careers and help build a diverse and well-educated future workforce. Although more women are entering engineering today—now making up about 14% of engineers in the United States compared to less than 6% in the 1980s—many still leave the profession, showing that gender inequality remains a challenge. Engineering itself dates to ancient times, when early humans invented remarkable structures such as the Egyptian pyramids; one of the earliest known engineers was Imhotep, who is believed to have designed the Step Pyramid at Saqqara around 2630 B.C. Over time, important women have also contributed to engineering and technology, such as Mary Dixon Kies, the first American woman to receive a patent, and Wanda Austin, who became the first woman and first African American president and CEO of The Aerospace Corporation. Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day was later strengthened through partnerships with organisations like IBM to encourage girls to explore hands-on STEM activities, apply for scholarships, and imagine themselves in careers that were once mostly closed to them, helping move society closer to fairness and equal opportunity in science and technology.



A Galaxy of her Own: Amazing Stories of Women in Space by Libby Jackson

From small steps to giant leaps, this is the story of 50 inspirational women who have been fundamental to the story of humans in space, from scientists to astronauts to some surprising roles in between. From Ada Lovelace in the nineteenth century, to the women behind the Apollo missions, from the astronauts breaking records on the International Space Station to those blazing the way in the race to get to Mars, Women in Space reveals extraordinary stories, champions unsung heroes and celebrates remarkable achievements from around the world.



Fantastically Great Women Scientists and Their Stories by Kate Pankhurst

Women have been responsible for many of the world's most groundbreaking scientific discoveries. Kate Pankhurst, descendant of Emmeline Pankhurst, tells the stories of some incredible female scientists whose hard work and persistence changed our understanding of science, and transformed people's ideas of what women can do. As a child Mae Jemison imagined herself reaching for the stars and that's exactly what she did: she became the first African-American woman to go into space.



International Stand Up to Bullying Day

International Stand Up to Bullying Day is observed twice each year—on the last Friday of February and the third Friday of November—and will next take place on February 27. The February event is part of Anti-Bullying Week and is supported by schools, workplaces, and organisations in more than 25 countries, all working to promote empathy and stop bullying and harassment. The day began in 2007 when two Canadian high school seniors, Travis Price and David Shepherd, stood up for a younger student who was bullied for wearing a pink shirt. To show their support, they bought dozens of pink shirts and encouraged classmates to wear them to school, creating a powerful "sea of pink" that symbolised solidarity and kindness. Their simple but meaningful action quickly spread across Canada, the United States, and other countries, eventually growing into an international movement. Since 2008, participants have worn pink "pledge shirts" to publicly show that they stand against bullying in a peaceful and non-confrontational way. Over time, governments have also taken steps to address bullying, such as Georgia passing the first U.S. anti-bullying law in 1999 and Canadian provinces adopting anti-bullying legislation in 2012. UK schools often take part by holding assemblies, workshops, and awareness campaigns that encourage students to speak out and support one another. UK schools are legally required to have behaviour and anti-bullying policies in place. International Stand Up to Bullying Day reminds people that bullying—whether in person or online—can have serious and lasting effects on mental health, and it encourages everyone to speak up, support victims, and help create safer, more respectful communities.



A Silent Voice Vol. 1 by Yoshitoki Oima

Shoya is a bully. When Shoko, a girl who can't hear, enters his elementary school class, she becomes their favorite target, and Shoya and his friends goad each other into devising new tortures for her. But the children's cruelty goes too far. Shoko is forced to leave the school, and Shoya ends up shouldering all the blame. Six years later, the two meet again. Can Shoya make up for his past mistakes, or is it too late?



Social Media Survival Guide by Holly Bothie

Packed with entertaining illustrations alongside practical information, the Social Media Survival Guide answers questions about all aspects of social media - the good AND the bad - making it a must-have tool for young people (and parents) to help navigate the online world safely and confidently and learn the best approaches to taking care of themselves.

