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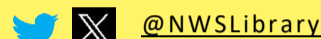
Happy reading! – Miss Mullins, Miss Walker, and Miss Henry



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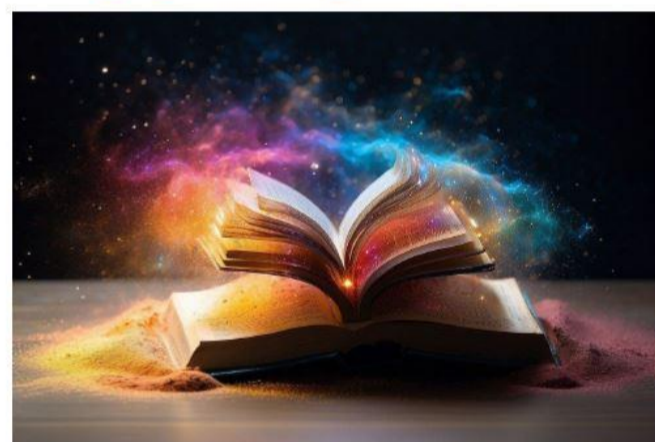
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Orpington Library's Younger Teens Reading Group

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!



"You are as welcome as the flowers in May." – Charles Macklin

NEW

One Dark Window #1 by Rachel Gillig

Elspeth Spindle needs more than luck to stay safe in the eerie, mist-locked kingdom she calls home -- she needs a monster. She calls him the Nightmare, an ancient, mercurial spirit trapped in her head. He protects her. He keeps her secrets. But nothing comes for free, especially magic. When Elspeth meets a mysterious highwayman on the forest road, her life takes a drastic turn. Thrust into a world of shadow and deception, she joins a dangerous quest to cure the kingdom of the dark magic infecting it. Except the highwayman just so happens to be the King's own nephew, Captain of the Destriers and guilty of high treason. He and Elspeth have until Solstice to gather twelve Providence Cards -- the keys to the cure. But as the stakes heighten and their undeniable attraction intensifies, Elspeth is forced to face her darkest secret yet: the Nightmare is slowly, darkly, taking over her mind. And she might not be able to stop him.



Thirteen by Steve Cavanagh

Hollywood actor Robert Soloman stands accused of the brutal stabbings of his wife and her lover, but he is desperately pleading that he had nothing to do with it. This is the trial of the century, and the defence want Eddie Flynn on their team. The biggest case Eddie has ever tried before, he decides to take it on despite the overwhelming evidence that Robert is guilty. As the trial starts, Eddie becomes sure of Robert's innocence, but there's something else he is even more sure of - that there is something sinister going on in the jury box. Because of this, he is forced to ask: what if the killer isn't on the stand? What if he's on the jury?

The Women by Kristin Hannah

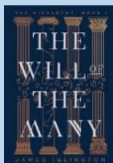
(recommended for older readers)

'Women can be heroes, too'. When twenty-year-old nursing student, Frances Frankie McGrath, hears these unexpected words, it is a revelation. Raised on California's idyllic Coronado Island and sheltered by her conservative parents, she has always prided herself on doing the right thing, being a good girl. But in 1965 the world is changing, and she suddenly imagines a different path for her life. When her brother ships out to serve in Vietnam, she impulsively joins the Army Nurses Corps and follows his path. As green and inexperienced as the young men sent to Vietnam to fight, Frankie is overwhelmed by the chaos and destruction of war, as well as the unexpected trauma of coming home to a changed America. Frankie will also discover the true value of female friendship and the heartbreak that love can cause.



The Will of the Many #1 by James Islington

I tell them that I belong, and they believe me. But the truth is that I have been sent to the Academy to find answers. To solve a murder. To search for an ancient weapon. To uncover secrets that may tear the Republic apart. And that I will never, ever cede my Will to the empire that executed my family. To survive, though, I will still have to rise through the Academy's ranks. I will have to smile, and make friends, and pretend to be one of them and win. Because if I cannot, then those who want to control me, who know my real name, will no longer have any use for me. And if the Hierarchy finds out who I truly am, they will kill me.



The House with the Golden Door #2 by Elodie Harper

(recommended for older readers)

At night she dreams of the wolf den, still haunted by her past. Amara longs for the woman she was forced to leave behind and worse, finds herself pursued by the man who once owned her. To be free, she will need to be as ruthless as he is. Amara knows her existence in Pompeii is subject to Venus, the goddess of love. Yet finding love may prove to be the most dangerous act of all.



The Temple of Fortuna #3 by Elodie Harper

(recommended for older readers)

Amara's journey has taken her far; from enslavement in Pompeii's Wolf Den brothel to her new life as a high-powered courtesan in Rome, but her story is not over yet. While Amara plays for power in Rome's imperial palace, those dearest to her remain in Pompeii. But it is 79 CE, and mighty Mount Vesuvius is about to make itself known.

Star Borrowers of April

Year 7

- Ishika 7F
- Arpita 7F
- Jada 7F
- Minaal 7G
- Anaisha 7G
- Advika 7N
- Chisomaga 7N
- Jasveen 7W
- Elsie 7W

Year 8

- Shonaya 8F
- Rosie 8G
- Ishita 8P
- Greta 8P
- Saatvika 8P
- Manha 8P
- Bade 8S
- Elana 8S
- Aditi 8S
- Aarya 8W

Year 9

- Vennela 9F
- Tripti 9F
- Dia 9F
- Anvi 9F
- Kinjal 9G
- Morenikeji 9N
- Neevh 9N
- Sophie 9P
- Elizabeth 9P
- Amy 9S
- Charis 9S
- Ananya 8W

Year 10

- Dhiviyaa 10G
- Willow 10N
- Senumi 10S
- Charlotte 10S
- Year 12
- Zam 12P
- Axel 12W
- Hannah 12X
- Year 13
- Sorena 13P
- Paula 13S

Most Borrowed Books of April



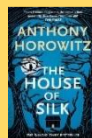
On This Day... Anthony Horowitz was 5th May 1955

Anthony Horowitz is a well-known British writer, born on April 5, 1955, in Stanmore, England, who has built a successful career creating exciting stories for both young people and adults, as well as writing for television. From a young age, he knew he wanted to be an author, and he later studied English literature and art history at the University of York before publishing his first book, *The Sinister Secret of Frederick K. Bower*, in 1979. Early in his career, he wrote the *Pentagram* series, a group of science fiction books about characters fighting evil forces, although these were not very successful. He then found greater popularity with the *Diamond Brothers* series, which combined humour and detective stories, and with *Groosham Grange*, a novel about a magical boarding school. Horowitz became especially famous in the 2000s with his *Alex Rider* series, which follows a teenage spy working for MI6, blending action and adventure in books like *Stormbreaker*. He later revisited his earlier ideas in the *Power of Five* series, which features teenagers battling supernatural threats and gained both critical and popular success. Alongside his books, Horowitz has written for television, creating shows such as *Foyle's War*, and has worked on films and plays as well. In more recent years, he has focused on adult fiction, including writing new stories based on famous characters like Sherlock Holmes and James Bond, as well as creating his own mystery series. His contributions to literature have been widely recognised, and in 2022 he was awarded a CBE for his services to writing, showing his lasting impact as a creative and versatile storyteller. To find out more on Anthony Horowitz, [click here](#).



The House of Silk #1 by Anthony Horowitz

London, 1890. 221B Baker St. A fine art dealer named Edmund Carstairs visits Sherlock Holmes and Dr John Watson to beg for their help. He is being menaced by a strange man in a flat cap – a wanted criminal who seems to have followed him all the way from America. In the days that follow, his home is robbed, his family is threatened. And then the first murder takes place.



Stormbreaker #1 by Anthony Horowitz

When his guardian dies in suspicious circumstances, fourteen-year-old Alex Rider finds his world turned upside down. Within days he's gone from schoolboy to superspy. Forcibly recruited into MI6, Alex has to take part in gruelling SAS training exercises; then, armed with his own special set of secret gadgets, he's off on his first mission. But Alex soon finds himself in mortal danger. It looks as if his first assignment may well be his last...



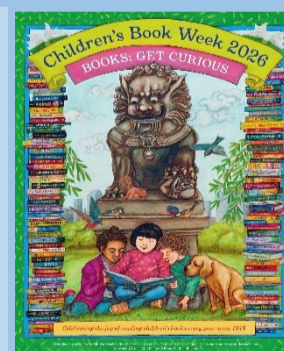
The Word is Murder by Anthony Horowitz

It's been two years since *Injustice Aired* and Detective Daniel Hawthorne needs cash. Having gotten himself fired from his job at the Metropolitan police, Hawthorne decides to approach Anthony Horowitz. He's investigating a bizarre and complex murder and he wants Anthony to write a book about it, a bestselling book of course, with a 50/50 split. The only catch is they need to solve the crime.



4th May is... Children's Book Week!

Children's Book Week, taking place from May 4 to 10, is a yearly event that encourages children to discover the joy of reading and highlights how important books are for learning and personal growth. Teaching children to enjoy reading from a young age can help them develop curiosity, imagination, and strong problem-solving skills, which are all useful later in life. The celebration began in 1919, making it the longest-running national literacy initiative in the United States, and it was created with the belief that books can change lives. Children's literature itself dates to the 18th century, when early books were mainly educational, but it grew into a form of entertainment thanks to pioneers like John Newbery, whose work helped shape modern children's stories. Over time, famous books such as "Alice in Wonderland," "Pinocchio," and "Treasure Island" showed how imaginative and exciting children's literature could be. The idea for Children's Book Week was promoted by Franklin K. Matthews in 1913, and it officially became a national event in 1919 with support from libraries, booksellers, and organizations like the Boy Scouts. Today, it is celebrated by schools, libraries, and families through activities like reading together, attending events, and even meeting authors. The week is not only about improving literacy but also about enjoying stories, sparking creativity, and creating special moments between children and adults, making it a fun and meaningful tradition that continues to inspire a lifelong love of books. To find out more, [click here](#).



Artemis Fowl #1 by Eoin Colfer

Artemis Fowl. You've probably heard the name. If internet rumours are to be believed, he's responsible for every major crime of the new century. If you haven't heard of young Artemis, the you're lucky. You'll sleep better not knowing that someone like him is out there. But if you must know, if curiosity is eating away at you, as it did at me, then let's start at the beginning...



Counting by 7s by Holly Goldberg Sloan

COUNTING BY 7S tells the story of Willow Chance, a twelve-year-old genius who is obsessed with diagnosing medical conditions and finds comfort in counting by 7s. It has never been easy for her to connect with anyone other than her adoptive parents, but that hasn't kept her from leading a quietly happy life... until now. Suddenly Willow's world is tragically changed when her parents both die in a car crash, leaving her alone in a baffling world. Her journey to find a fascinatingly diverse and fully believable surrogate family is a joy and a revelation to read.



11th May is... National Mental Health Awareness Week

National Mental Health Awareness Week, held from May 10 to 16, is an important global event that focuses on raising awareness about mental health and encouraging people to talk openly about it. Even though mental health affects a huge number of people—around one in four worldwide—it is still often misunderstood and treated as a taboo, especially in some countries where people may wrongly assume that mental illness means someone is "crazy." The event was started over 20 years ago by the Mental Health Foundation in the U.K. to promote understanding, reduce stigma, and support better mental wellbeing for everyone. Over time, it has grown into one of the largest awareness campaigns in the world, with yearly themes helping to highlight specific issues. It also connects to wider efforts like World Mental Health Day, first observed in 1992, which further emphasizes the importance of mental health globally. The week encourages people to start



conversations, learn more about different mental health conditions—such as anxiety, depression, and eating disorders—and recognise that mental health can be affected by many factors, including genetics, life experiences, brain chemistry, and loneliness. It also reminds people that mental health is different for everyone and can change depending on personal circumstances. Activities during the week include reaching out to friends and family, educating yourself, and seeking professional help if needed. Overall, the purpose of Mental Health Awareness Week is to break down stigma, show that mental health is just as important as physical health, and create a supportive environment where people feel comfortable asking for help and supporting others.

When I See Blue by Lily Bailey

There are 4 things you should know about Ben:

1. He's 12 years old
2. He's the new kid at school
3. His special number is 4
4. He has a bully in his brain

Sometimes Ben's brain makes him count to 4 to prevent bad things happening. Sometimes it makes him tap or blink in 4s. Mostly it makes the smallest things feel impossible. And with a new school, a moody big brother, an absent dad and a mum battling her own demons, Ben feels more out of control than ever. But then he meets April, and with his new friend, Ben might finally figure out how to stand up to the bully in his brain, once and for all.

