



AUTUMN

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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!



NEW

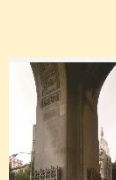
All The Things that Could Go Wrong by Stewart Foster

There are two sides to every story. Dan is angry. Nothing has been the same since his big brother left, and he's taking it out on the nearest and weakest target: Alex. Alex is struggling. His severe OCD makes it hard for him to leave the house, especially when Dan and his gang are waiting for him at school. When the two boys' mums arrange for them to meet out of school and finish building the boat that Dan started with his brother, it seems like the end of the world. But could it be the start of an unlikely friendship?



Everyone's Thinking It by Aleema Omatoni

At an elite boarding school in the English countryside, Nigerian cousins Iyanu and Kitan are thrown into the middle of a schoolwide conspiracy when everyone's juicy secrets are released Burn Book style the week before the annual Valentine's Day Ball. Within the walls of Wodebury Hall, reputation is everything. But aspiring photographer Iyanu is more comfortable observing things safely from behind her camera. For Iyanu's estranged cousin Kitan, life seems perfect. She has money, beauty and friends like queen bee Heather. But as a Nigerian girl in a school as white and insular as Wodebury, Kitan struggles with the personal sacrifices needed to keep her place-- and the protection she gets-- within the exclusive popular crowd. Then, photos from Iyanu's camera are stolen and splashed across the school-- each with a juicy secret written on it. With everyone's dirty laundry suddenly out in the open, the school explodes in chaos, and the whispers accusing Iyanu of being the one behind it all start to feel like *deja vu*. Each girl is desperate to unravel the mystery of who stole the photos and why. But exposing the truth will change them all forever.



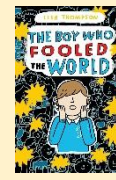
The White Queen #1 by Philippa Gregory

A woman of extraordinary beauty and ambition who, catching the eye of the newly crowned boy king, marries him in secret and ascends to royalty. While Elizabeth rises to the demands of her exalted position and fights for the success of her family, her two sons become central figures in a mystery that has confounded historians for centuries: the missing princes in the Tower of London whose fate is still unknown.



The Heart of a Dog by Mikhail Bulgakov

A rich, successful Moscow professor befriends a stray dog and attempts a scientific first by transplanting into it the testicles and pituitary gland of a recently deceased man. A distinctly worryingly human animal is now on the loose, and the professor's hitherto respectable life becomes a nightmare beyond endurance. An absurd and superbly comic story, this classic novel can also be read as a fierce parable of the Russian Revolution.



Goodreads Choice Awards 2025

The 2025 Goodreads Choice Awards are an annual event where readers from around the world get to vote for their favourite books of the year. All registered Goodreads members can take part in two rounds of voting, with the winners announced on December 4, 2025. The Opening Round runs from November 11th to the 23rd, when members can choose their favourite book from a list of 20 nominees in each of the 15 categories, such as fiction, fantasy, romance, and more. After that, the Final Round takes place from November 25th to the 30th, narrowing the competition down to the top 10 books per category before one winner is selected in each. To be eligible, a book must have been published in English in the United States between November 13th, 2024, and November 11th, 2025; books released after that date will qualify for the following year's awards. Goodreads uses data from millions of user ratings, reviews, and additions to choose the nominees, and for the Audiobook category, they also look at data from Audible. Each nominated book must have an average rating of 3.5 stars or higher, and while only one book from a series can be nominated per category, authors can still receive multiple nominations if they have several eligible works. This makes the Goodreads Choice Awards one of the most interactive and reader-driven literary honours in the world. Long on to your Goodreads to put your nominations through! In the meantime, here are some books from nominated author's you can find here in the library:



The Only Good Indians by Stephen Graham Jones (recommended for older readers)

Ricky, Gabe, Lewis and Cassidy are men bound to their heritage, bound by society, and trapped in the endless expanses of the landscape. Now, ten years after a fateful elk hunt, which remains a closely guarded secret between them, these men - and their children - must face a ferocious spirit that is coming for them, one at a time. A spirit which wears the faces of the ones they love, tearing a path into their homes, their families and their most sacred moments of faith. Ten years after that fateful hunt, these men are being stalked themselves. Soaked with a powerful gothic atmosphere, the endless expanses of the landscape press down on these men - and their children - as the ferocious spirit comes for them one at a time.



Babel by R.F. Kuang (recommended for older readers)

For Robin, Oxford is a utopia dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge. But knowledge obeys power, and as a Chinese boy raised in Britain, Robin realizes serving Babel means betraying his motherland. As his studies progress, Robin finds himself caught between Babel and the shadowy Hermes Society, an organization dedicated to stopping imperial expansion. When Britain pursues an unjust war with China over silver and opium, Robin must decide...



Sunrise on the Reaping #0.5 by Suzanne Collins

As the day dawns on the fiftieth annual Hunger Games, fear grips the districts of Panem. This year, in honour of the Quarter Quell, twice as many tributes will be taken from their homes. Back in District 12, Haymitch Abernathy is trying not to think too hard about his chances. All he cares about is making it through the day and being with the girl he loves. When Haymitch's name is called, he can feel all his dreams break. He's torn from his family and his love, shuttled to the Capitol with the three other District 12 tributes: a young friend who's nearly a sister to him, a compulsive oddsmaker, and the most stuck-up girl in town. As the Games begin, Haymitch understands he's been set up to fail. But there's something in him that wants to fight... and have that fight reverberate far beyond the deadly arena.

Shatter Me #1 by Tahereh Mafi

Juliette hasn't touched anyone in exactly 264 days. The Reestablishment said their way was the only way to fix things, so they threw Juliette in a cell. Now so many people are dead that the survivors are whispering war - and The Reestablishment has changed its mind. Maybe Juliette is more than a tortured soul stuffed into a poisonous body. Maybe she's exactly what they need right now.

Remembrance Day November 11th

Remembrance Day 2025 will be observed on Tuesday, November 11th, at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, just as it has been every year since the end of World War I. The day, also called Poppy Day because of the red poppy worn in remembrance, honours the soldiers who have died in wars and conflicts. It began after the armistice of November 11, 1918, when fighting on the Western Front stopped and the Allies and Germany agreed to end the war. Millions had died, and the moment when the guns fell silent became deeply symbolic—a time to remember and mourn the fallen. The first Armistice Day was held in 1919, when two minutes of silence were introduced at the Cenotaph in London, an idea supported by both an Australian journalist and a South African statesman. Over time, the name changed to Remembrance Day, especially after World War II, to honour not only those from the First World War but all who served afterward. In Canada, the holiday—called *Jour du Souvenir* in French—was officially fixed on November 11 in 1931 and is now a statutory holiday in six provinces. The main ceremony takes place at the National War Memorial in Ottawa, where since 2000 the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier has stood to represent all unidentified Canadian soldiers who died in war. Around the world, other countries have their own versions of Remembrance Day—such as ANZAC Day in Australia and New Zealand, Dodenherdenking in the Netherlands, and Volkstrauertag in Germany—all dedicated to remembering those who sacrificed their lives. Today, about 79% of Canadians wear a poppy, and most still consider the day an important time to honour the 118,000 soldiers who have died serving their country and to reflect on the cost of peace and freedom.



The First War by Martin Gilbert

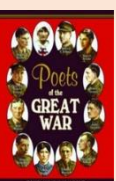
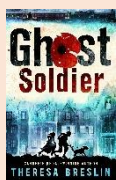
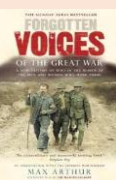
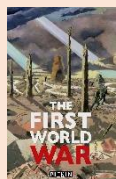
In a companion volume to his acclaimed *The Second World War*, Martin Gilbert weaves together all of these elements to create a stunning, dramatic, and informative narrative. *The First World War* is everything we have come to expect from the scholar the *Times Literary Supplement* placed "in the first rank of contemporary historians."

Forgotten Voices of the Great War by Max Arthur

This unique landmark oral history uses first-hand accounts from ordinary men and women who were there. Gripping, poignant, surprising and even humorous, the personal experiences of these soldiers, civilians, marines and medics from both sides tell us what it was really like to live through what was supposed to be the war to end all wars.

Great Britain's Great War by Jeremy Paxman

Using a wealth of first-hand source material, Jeremy Paxman brings vividly to life the day-to-day experience of the British over the entire course of the war, from politicians, newspapermen, campaigners and Generals, to Tommies, factory workers, nurses, wives and children, capturing the whole mood and morale of the nation. It reveals that life and identity in Britain were often dramatically different from our own and show how both were utterly transformed - not always for the worst - by the enormous upheaval of the war.



The First World War by Brian Williams

In 1914, the war aim of all nations was simple: victory. By the time that victory came about in 1918 the celebrations were muted. Too much had been lost, and tragedy had touched almost every household. This Pitkin guide presents the history of the reality and the horrors of the Great War, which left a deep impact on a generation and subsequent generations, marked by the war graves and memorials in Flanders that still move visitors.

Ghost Soldier by Theresa Breslin

Nobody believes in ghosts until they see one... The war has changed everything for Rob and Millie. Their father is missing in action, and they are terrified they'll never see him again. Then one night, deep in the woods, Rob and Millie see an eerie figure in the window of an abandoned house. But there's no such thing as ghosts, is there?

Poets of the Great War by Tonie and Valmai Holt

This unusual and beautiful book collects twenty-five of the often read, well-loved poets. Each poet is illustrated with an original watercolour portrait by the talented young artist, Charlotte Zeepvat, who reproduces in pleasing script one of their works, giving a biographical summary that placed the poet firmly in the battlefield context in which their work was conceived. Sadly, many of these young poets still lie on the poignant battlefields of France and Belgium where they fought.

On This Day... Neil Gaiman was Born 10th November 1960



Neil Gaiman, born on November 10, 1960, in Portchester, England, is a world-renowned author and one of the key figures in modern comics and fantasy literature. Known for his creativity and ability to blend genres, Gaiman has written novels, short stories, poetry, films, songs, and plays, earning recognition as one of the top postmodern authors of his time. Growing up, he was deeply inspired by writers like C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, and Edgar Allan Poe, which fuelled his lifelong love of storytelling. He began his career as a journalist before publishing his first books—a biography of the band Duran Duran and one about Douglas Adams. His breakthrough came with the comic book series *The Sandman*, which won multiple awards and even made history by receiving a World Fantasy Award for Best Short Story in 1991. Gaiman later became famous for novels such as *Coraline* (2002), a dark children's story that was initially considered too scary but went on to win

major awards and inspire an Oscar-nominated animated film. His other acclaimed works include *The Graveyard Book*, which won the Newbery Medal, and *The Ocean at the End of the Lane*, voted Book of the Year in the U.K. Known for his gothic, mythological, and imaginative storytelling, Gaiman has also written scripts for TV and film, such as the *Neverwhere* series and the *Good Omens* miniseries on Amazon. Over the years, he has continued to influence literature and pop culture through projects like *The Sandman: Overture*, *American Gods*, and *Norse Mythology*. Today, Gaiman lives in the United States, continuing to write stories that captivate readers of all ages and blur the lines between fantasy, horror, and reality.

Coraline by Neil Gaiman

Looking for excitement, Coraline ventures through a mysterious door into a world that is similar, yet disturbingly different from her own, where she must challenge a gruesome entity to save herself, her parents, and the souls of three others.

The Sandman: Preludes and Nocturnes Vol. 1 by Neil Gaiman

In *PRELUDES & NOCTURNES*, an occultist attempting to capture Death to bargain for eternal life traps her younger brother Dream instead. After his 70-year imprisonment and eventual escape, Dream, also known as Morpheus, goes on a quest for his last objects of power. On his arduous journey, Morpheus encounters Lucifer, John Constantine, and an all-powerful madman.

Stardust by Neil Gaiman

Young Tristran Thorn has lost his heart to the beautiful Victoria Forester and, to win her love, vows to bring her a star they see fall from the night sky. It is an oath that sends him over the town's ancient wall and into the mysterious land of Faerie - a world that is dangerous and strange beyond imagining...

