



SPRING

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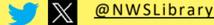
Happy reading! – Miss Mullins, Miss Walker, and Miss Henry



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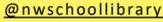
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Orpington Library's Younger Teens Reading Group

Do you enjoy reading?
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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!



"In March I'll be rested, caught up, and human." – Sylvia Plath

NEW

The Lamb by Lucy Rose

(Recommended for older readers)

Margot and Mama have lived by the forest since Margot can remember. When Margot isn't at school, they spend quiet days together in their cottage, waiting for strangers to knock on their door. Strays, Mama calls them. Mama loves the strays. She feeds them wine, keeps them warm. Then she satisfies her burning appetite by picking apart their bodies. But Mama's want is stronger than her hunger sometimes, and when a white-toothed stray named Eden turns up in the heart of a snowstorm, little Margot must confront the shifting dynamics of her family, untangle her own desires and make a bid for freedom.



Mastering Twentieth-Century Russian History by Norman Lowe

Mastering Twentieth Century Russian History presents a vivid and informative account of the events which befell the Russian people during the twentieth century. This text is the ideal companion for anyone seeking a clear yet detailed introduction to the fascinating events of twentieth century Russian history.

Biological Rhythms, Sleep and Hypnosis by Simon Green

Like food and water, sleep is essential for all. In this excellent study aid, the authors look at the nature and purpose of sleeping and related disorders, dreaming and hypnosis. This clear and focused introduction provides a fantastic entry point for students seeking a deeper understanding of altered states of awareness.



Blue Flag Vol. 1 by Kaito

An unexpected love quadrangle with a dash of unrequited love as two classmates, a boy and a girl, begin to fall for each other when each of their best friends have already fallen for them. Love is already hard enough, but it becomes an un navigable maze for unassuming high school student Taichi Ichinose and his shy classmate Futaba Kuzue when they begin to fall for each other after their same-sex best friends have already fallen for them.

Days at the Torunka Café by Satoshi Yagisawa

Tucked away on a narrow side street in Tokyo is the Torunka Café, a neighbourhood nook where the passersby are as likely to be local cats as tourists. Its regulars include Chinatsu Yukimura, a mysterious young woman who always leaves behind a napkin folded into the shape of a ballerina; Hiroyuki Yumata, a middle-aged man who's returned to the neighbourhood searching for the happy life he once gave up; and Shizuku, the café owner's teenage daughter, who is still coming to terms with her sister's death as she falls in love for the first time.



Girl Online by Zoe Sugg

Under the alias Girl Online, Penny blogs her hidden feelings about friendship, boys, high school drama, her crazy family, and the panic attacks that have begun to take over her life. When things go from bad to worse, her family whisks her away to New York, where she meets Noah, a gorgeous, guitar-strumming American. Suddenly Penny is falling in love - and capturing every moment of it on her blog.

Alone on a Wide Wide Sea by Michael Morpurgo

When six-year-old orphan Arthur Hobhouse is shipped to Australia after WWII he loses his sister, his country and everything he knows. Overcoming enormous hardships with fellow orphan Marty, Arthur is finally saved by the extraordinary people he meets and by his talent for boat-design and sailing. Now he has built a special boat for his daughter Allie – a solo yacht designed to carry her to England in search of his long-lost sister. Will the threads of Arthur's life finally come together?



The Cruel Prince by Holly Black

Jude was seven when her parents were murdered and she and her two sisters were stolen away to live in the treacherous High Court of Faerie. Ten years later, Jude wants nothing more than to belong there, despite her mortality. But many of the fey despise humans. Especially Prince Cardan, the youngest and wickedest son of the High King. To win a place at the Court, she must defy him—and face the consequences.

11th March is National Covid Day

National COVID-19 Day is observed every year on March 11, the date when the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic in 2020. The day was first officially observed in 2021 after being proposed in 2020 by disaster researcher Jamie Aten and the Humanitarian Disaster Institute, with support from organizations such as World Vision and VOMO. Its purpose is to give people time to pause, remember those who died, support those still affected, and recognize the strength and resilience shown by communities during the pandemic. Coronaviruses themselves are not new—they have existed for thousands of years and were first discovered in humans in

the 1960s in the United Kingdom. Over time, scientists identified several strains, including the virus behind the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome outbreak in 2003. In late 2019, a new strain called COVID-19, caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2, was identified in Wuhan, China, after cases of unusual pneumonia appeared. The virus spread quickly around the world, causing millions of deaths, disrupting education for most students globally, and pushing many people into poverty. National COVID-19 Day encourages people to take part in virtual events, memorial ceremonies, and community discussions, often using the colours red and white and the hashtag #notalone to symbolize unity. Overall, the day reminds people how deeply the pandemic changed daily life—from masks and social distancing to emotional and economic struggles—while also highlighting how people around the world came together to support one another and work toward recovery and a better future.



Crossing the Line by Tia Fisher

A novel exploring how teenagers can be swept up into county lines. Erik's mum is juggling the challenge of two small babies, plus the recent death of her husband due to COVID-19. Both these factors affect teenage Erik too, struggling with homework as the babies continually cry or his mum needs help. When the difficulties at home affect Erik's behaviour at school and he gets in with the wrong crowd, Erik is tempted to earn some easy money... But this kind of money is never truly easy to earn and comes with a terrible cost.



On This Day... H.P. Lovecraft died 15th March 1937

H. P. Lovecraft (Howard Phillips Lovecraft) was an American writer known for his dark fantasy and horror stories, and he is considered one of the most important authors of 20th-century Gothic horror. He was born in 1890 in Providence, Rhode Island and became interested in science, fantasy, and strange stories when he was young. Because of poor health, he was unable to attend college and spent much of his life working as a ghostwriter and editor while living in poverty and isolation. Many of his stories were published in the magazine Weird Tales during the 1920s and 1930s. Lovecraft is best known for creating the Cthulhu Mythos, a shared fictional universe in which humans discover terrifying ancient creatures from space. One of his most famous creations is Cthulhu, a monstrous being with an octopus-like head who lies sleeping beneath the ocean and could one day awaken to rule the world. His most well-known works include The Call of Cthulhu, At the Mountains of Madness, The Shadow over Innsmouth, and The Case of Charles Dexter Ward.



Lovecraft's stories often take place in New England and mix real locations with imaginative mythology, creating a sense of realistic but terrifying mystery. Although he was not very famous during his lifetime and died in 1937 at the age of 46, his work became much more popular after his death and influenced many later writers such as Stephen King and Neil Gaiman. Today, Lovecraft's ideas and monsters have inspired books, films, music, and games, making his horror universe an important part of modern popular culture.

The Complete Fiction of H.P. Lovecraft by H.P. Lovecraft

Collects the author's novel, four novellas, and fifty-three short stories. Written between the years 1917 and 1935, this collection features Lovecraft's trademark fantastical creatures and supernatural thrills, as well as many horrific and cautionary science-fiction themes, that have influenced some of today's writers and filmmakers, including Stephen King, Alan Moore, F. Paul Wilson, Guillermo del Toro, and Neil Gaiman. Included in this volume are 'The Case of Charles Dexter Ward,' 'The Call of Cthulhu,' 'The Dream-Quest of Unknown Kadath,' 'At the Mountains of Madness,' 'The Shadow Over Innsmouth,' 'The Colour Out of Space,' 'The Dunwich Horror,' and many more hair-raising tales.



On This Day... Terry Pratchett died 12th March 2015

Terry Pratchett was an English writer known for his humorous fantasy and science fiction stories, especially the famous Discworld series. He was born on April 28th, 1948, in Beaconsfield, England, and developed a love for science fiction and fantasy at a young age. While still in school, he wrote his first story, "The Hades Business," which was later published in a magazine, and at age 17 he left school to work in journalism. During this time, he began writing novels and published his first book, The Carpet People, in 1971. He continued working in journalism and public relations until his fantasy novel The Colour of Magic (1983) launched the Discworld series, a hugely popular set of books set on a strange world shaped like a disc that rests on four giant elephants standing on a giant turtle. The series became a global success, leading to dozens of books as well as video games, plays, and television adaptations, and Pratchett eventually became a full-time writer. He also wrote other works such as Dodger and collaborated with Stephen Baxter on novels like The Long Earth. In 2007, Pratchett was diagnosed with Posterior Cortical Atrophy, a rare form of



Alzheimer's disease, but he continued writing and became a supporter of Alzheimer's research, even donating money and appearing in a BBC documentary about the condition. Over his career he received many honours, including being appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire and being knighted in 2009. Pratchett died in 2015 at age 66, and his final Discworld novel, The Shepherd's Crown, was published later that year. Today he is remembered as one of the most creative and influential fantasy authors, whose books combined imaginative worlds, humour, and social commentary to entertain readers of all ages.

Good Omens by Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman

It's a predicament that Aziraphale, a somewhat fussy angel, and Crowley, a fast-living demon, now find themselves in. They've been living amongst Earth's mortals since The Beginning and, truth be told, have grown rather fond of the lifestyle and, in all honesty, are not actually looking forward to the coming Apocalypse.

The Wee Free Men #1 by Terry Pratchett

Tiffany wants to be a witch when she grows up. A proper one, with a pointy hat. And flying, she's always dreamed of flying (though it's cold up there, you have to wear really thick pants, two layers). But she's worried Tiffany isn't a very 'witchy' name. And a witch has always protected Tiffany's land, to stop the nightmares getting through. Now the nightmares have taken her brother, and it's up to her to get him back.

Wintersmith by Terry Pratchett

Tiffany Aching put one foot wrong, made just one little mistake ... And now the spirit of winter is in love with her. He gives her roses and icebergs and showers her with snowflakes, which is tough when you're thirteen, but also just a little bit ... cool. If Tiffany doesn't work out how to deal with him, there will never be another springtime.



6th - 15th March is British Science Week

British Science Week is a ten-day annual celebration in the United Kingdom that aims to make science exciting and accessible for people of all ages by encouraging interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (often called STEM). In 2026 it takes place from March 6 to March 15 and includes thousands of events across the country in places such as schools, museums, libraries, shopping centres, and theatres. The week is organized by the British Science Association and funded by UK Research and Innovation, and it invites teachers, scientists, students, and the public to take part in workshops, talks, and hands-on activities that make learning about science more fun and less intimidating. The celebration originally began in 1994 as Britain's National Science Week before being renamed British Science Week in



2014. Its goal is to show how important science is in everyday life and to inspire young people to consider careers in STEM fields. Throughout the week, people can attend science events, organize their own workshops, or simply explore scientific ideas and discoveries—from historic breakthroughs like Antonie van Leeuwenhoek discovering red blood cells with microscopes, to Edward Jenner developing early vaccines, and Neil Armstrong becoming the first human to walk on the Moon. Overall, British Science Week celebrates scientific achievements, helps people better understand how the world works, and encourages curiosity, creativity, and future careers in science and technology.

The Loop #1 by Ben Oliver

Luka Kane has been inside hi-tech prison the Loop for over two years. A death sentence is hanging over his head but his day-to-day routine is mind-numbingly repetitive. Then everything changes. Soon, Luka has to face a new reality: breaking out of the Loop might be his only chance to save himself - and the world.



100 Most Popular Scientists for Young Adults by Kendall Haven

Revealing the career histories of successful 20th century scientists, this exciting resource offers students fascinating reads, a wonderful research tool, and tips to launching a science career. They'll learn about Robert Ballard, the oceanographer who discovered the Titanic; Annie Wauneka, who eradicated TB among the Navajo; and Chien-Shiung Wu, a physicist who worked on the Manhattan project.



10th March is Harriet Tubman Day

Harriet Tubman Day is celebrated every year on March 10th to honour the life and achievements of Harriet Tubman, a formerly enslaved woman who became one of the most important leaders in the fight against slavery in the United States. The holiday was officially created in 1990 by the United States Congress and was proclaimed by President George H. W. Bush to recognize Tubman's courage and her efforts to help enslaved people gain freedom. Tubman was born around 1820-1822 in Dorchester County, Maryland to parents Benjamin Ross and Harriet Green, and she was originally named Araminta "Minty" Ross before later changing her name. She escaped slavery in 1849 and then risked her life many times by returning to the South to guide others to freedom using the Underground Railroad, a secret network of safe houses and routes. Through these missions, she helped around 70 enslaved people escape and became



known for never losing anyone she guided. During the American Civil War, she also worked for the Union as a nurse, cook, and spy, showing her dedication to helping others and fighting injustice. Tubman died in 1913 from pneumonia, and March 10—the anniversary of her death—was chosen as the day to remember her. Harriet Tubman Day encourages people to learn about the history of slavery, visit places connected to her life such as the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park in New York and the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park in Maryland, and continue standing up against racism and inequality today. Overall, the day reminds people of the courage it took for Tubman to fight for freedom and inspires others to be brave, learn from history, and work toward a more just and equal society.

Bad Girls Throughout history: 100 Remarkable Women Who Changed the World by Ann Shen

Aphra Behn, first female professional writer. Sojourner Truth, activist and abolitionist. Ada Lovelace, first computer programmer. Marie Curie, first woman to win the Nobel Prize. Joan Jett, godmother of punk. The 100 revolutionary women highlighted in this gorgeously illustrated book were bad in the best sense of the word: they challenged the status quo and changed the rules for all who followed. From pirates to artists, warriors, daredevils, scientists, activists, and spies, the accomplishments of these incredible women vary as much as the eras and places in which they effected change. Featuring bold watercolour portraits and illuminating essays by Ann Shen, Bad Girls Throughout History is a distinctive, gift-worthy tribute. The Ripper and Girl in the Blue Coat, this high-seas heist from the author of The Henna Wars is an immersive story that makes readers forget one important detail—the ship sinks.

