



SPRING

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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!

On This Day... Meg Cabot was born 1st February 1967

Meg Cabot is a very successful American author who was born in Bloomington, Indiana, and went on to write more than 100 books for both teens and adults, selling over 25 million copies worldwide. She is best known for *The Princess Diaries* series, which became #1 *New York Times* bestsellers, were translated into dozens of languages, and were turned into popular Disney movies, even though some of her books have been banned in certain schools and libraries because of their strong messages about female empowerment. Cabot studied fine arts at Indiana University, lived in places like France and California, and later worked at New York University, where her experiences inspired some of her later mystery novels. Her writing includes many popular series such as *The Mediator*, *Avalon High*, *1-800-Where-R-You?*, and *All-American Girl*, as well as creative books written entirely through emails and text messages. In addition to novels, she has written graphic novels, including one for DC Comics, and continues to create new stories for younger readers and adults. Meg Cabot is especially proud that her books have helped many young people enjoy reading and feel supported during difficult times, and she even donates part of her book profits to charities that support girls' rights. Today, she lives in Key West, Florida, with her husband and several cats, continuing to write stories that are known for humour, strong characters, and hopeful endings.

*The Princess Diaries #1* by Meg Cabot

Mia Thermopolis is pretty sure there's nothing worse than being a five-foot-nine, flat-chested freshman, who also happens to be flunking Algebra. Is she ever in for a surprise.

The Princess Diaries: It Takes 2 by Meg Cabot

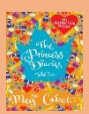
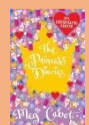
Just when Mia thought she had the whole princess thing under control, things get out of hand, fast. First, there's an unexpected announcement from her mother. Then Grand'Mere arranges a national primetime interview for the brand-new crown princess of Genovia. On top of that, intriguing, exasperating letters from a secret admirer begin to arrive.

The Princess Diaries: Third Time Lucky by Meg Cabot

Princess Mia may seem like the luckiest girl ever. For Mia, being princess is not the fairy tale it's supposed to be. . . or is it?

The Princess Diaries: Mia Goes Fourth by Meg Cabot

Never before has the world seen such a princess. Nor have her own subjects, for that matter. Mia's royal introduction to Genovia has mixed results: while her fashion sense is widely applauded, her position on the installation of public parking meters is met with resistance.



"Late February days; and now, at last, might you have thought that winter's woe was past." - William Morris

NEW

The First Year #2 by Matt Goodfellow

Nate's eleven and has just finished Primary School. After a challenging final year, life is looking up. His brother has recovered from a life-threatening heart condition, he's got the love of his mum, brothers and Auntie San, and he's off to Secondary School with his two best mates. While he's finding his feet in a new school with high expectations, new friends and avoiding the focus and fists of Turner, his old nemesis; an unexpected arrival turns his whole world upside-down. As The Beast - the anger he tries so hard to control - reappears, will Nate find a way to keep himself and his family together?

*Ruby Redfort: Catch Your Death #3* by Lauren Child

Undercover agent, code-cracker and thirteen-year-old genius - there's nothing average about her. Only this time it is an adventure in the wild, and it will take all Ruby's got just to survive. This time, tigers are roaming the streets of Twinford, and it looks like someone has deliberately released some very rare and very dangerous animals. Things are going to get wild - and Ruby is going to get badly lost in the wilderness. The question is: will she ever make it out alive? Well, as always, you wouldn't want to bet against her.

St Clare's 3 books in 1 Collection by Enid Blythton

Isabel and Pat O'Sullivan are excited to begin their fourth year at St Clare's with their friends. In this collection there are new girls to meet with secrets to hide, a thief to be caught and feuding farms. But in between solving mysteries and saving friendships, there's a wonderful surprise for the twins.

*Ruby Redfort: Feel the Fear #4* by Lauren Child

Ruby Redfort has a lot of reasons to feel confident. Undercover agent, code cracker, thirteen-year-old genius—she's one fearless kid, buster. Unmasking an evil villain? Done. Honing her parkour skills by climbing skyscrapers and leaping across roofs? All in a day's work. Heeding the warning signs? Well, not so much. When a ghostly foe begins stealing from the highest buildings in Twinford, Ruby Redfort is ready to defy death one more time to capture the bandit. But fearlessness can lead to taking risks, which can land a person in very serious trouble. While Ruby may think she's invincible, there's truth to the saying that recklessness always comes before a fall.

Birthday Boy by David Baddiel

What if it was every day? This is the story of Sam Green, who really, really, really loves birthdays. He loves the special breakfasts in bed. The presents. The themed parties. Blowing out the candles on his cake. Everything. In fact, he wishes it was his birthday every day. So, at first, it's exciting when his birthday happens again the next morning - and the next and again. But it's not long before things start to go wrong...threatening something Sam loves even more than birthdays. Sometimes you have to be careful what you wish for.

*Ruby Redfort: Pick Your Poison #5* by Lauren Child

Ruby Redfort: undercover agent, code-cracker and thirteen-year-old genius - you can count on her when you're between a rock and a hard place. There's a lot to lose sleep over in Twinford: there's the snakes and the bivalves, but they aren't half as poisonous as the rumours. With so many twists and turns it's hard to know who to trust, particularly when no one trusts you. Will Ruby make it out in one piece? Well, happy endings are for fairy tales, bozo.

Silver Stars by Michael Grant

The summer of 1943: World War II. The Germans have been bloodied, but Nazi Germany is very far from beaten. The North African campaign was only the beginning of the long journey for Frankie, Rainy, Rio, and the millions of other Allies. Now the American army is moving on to their next target: the Italian island of Sicily. Frankie, Rainy, and Rio now know firsthand what each of them is willing to do to save herself and the consequences. With their heavy memories of combat, they will find this operation to be even tougher.

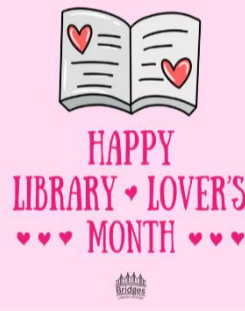
*Ruby Redfort: Blink and You Die #6* by Lauren Child

Ruby Redfort: undercover agent, code-cracker and thirteen-year-old genius - you can count on her when the ice starts to crack. All good things come to an end...Ruby Redfort is running scared, a whole bunch of people want her dead and worst of all one of them is on her team. But just who is this agent of doom? You can run, Ruby, but you can't hide...

Let's Celebrate... Library Lover's Month on the 1st February

The word "library" comes from Latin, where *liber* means "book" or "document," and it developed from early ideas about storing and organising written knowledge. Libraries began thousands of years ago around 2600 B.C. in Sumer, when people kept records on clay tablets, making them the earliest form of archives. By about 500 B.C., private libraries with written books appeared in Greece, and later, around 600 A.D., famous libraries such as those in Alexandria and Constantinople became major centres of learning that attracted scholars from all over the world. By 1100 A.D., the Fatimid dynasty created an enormous palace library that held one of the largest collections of literature of its time and was considered a wonder of the world. Sadly, many great libraries throughout history were destroyed by conquerors who wanted

to erase the knowledge and culture of the people they defeated, such as the burning of the Nizaris' library in 1256 A.D. Despite this dark history, libraries survived and grew in importance, and today they are safe spaces for learning, studying, community events, book launches, and discussions. Libraries play a vital role in society by making knowledge available to everyone, supporting education, and helping communities thrive, which is why people continue to value and celebrate them, especially during events like Library Lovers Month that encourage reading, learning, and even writing books of our own.

*Dewey: The Small-Town Library-Cat Who Touched the World*

How many lives can one abandoned kitten touch? This is the heart-warming and unforgettable story of a truly idiosyncratic cat with a strong sense of loyalty and love, and a taste for fast-food. Dewey became the towns number one attraction and he began regularly appearing in the national and international media. Fans from all over the world visited the small town to pay homage to the world's most beloved cat.

On This Day... Mary Shelley Died 1st February 1851

Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley was an English Romantic writer born in London in 1797. She was the daughter of two famous thinkers—philosopher William Godwin and feminist writer Mary Wollstonecraft—though her mother died shortly after Mary was born, and her childhood was difficult due to tension with her stepmother. Even without a formal education, Mary grew up surrounded by important writers and ideas, which strongly shaped her imagination and writing. As a teenager, she met poet Percy Shelley, and despite many challenges, including family conflict and personal loss, they formed a creative partnership and eventually married. During a stormy summer in Switzerland in 1816, known as the "haunted summer," Mary took part in a ghost-story challenge with famous writers like Lord Byron, which inspired her to write *Frankenstein*, a story about a scientist who creates life and faces tragic consequences. The novel was published anonymously when she was only 20 years old and



quickly became popular, even though many initially assumed a man had written it. Throughout her life, Mary Shelley faced repeated tragedies, including the deaths of several of her children and her husband, but she continued to write novels, essays, and travel books and worked hard to preserve and publish Percy Shelley's writings. She died in 1851 at the age of 53, but her legacy lives on, as *Frankenstein* remains one of the most influential novels ever written, shaping literature, science fiction, and popular culture for over two centuries.

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

Mary Shelley's chilling Gothic tale was conceived when she was only eighteen, living with her lover Percy Shelley on Lake Geneva. The story of Victor Frankenstein who, obsessed with creating life itself, plunders graveyards for the material to fashion a new being, but whose botched creature sets out to destroy his maker, would become the world's most famous work of horror fiction, and remains a devastating exploration of the limits of human creativity.

LGBT History Month 1st February

LGBT+ History Month in the U.K. is celebrated every February and is a month-long event that focuses on the history, achievements, and contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people, while also promoting equality and understanding. This year's theme, *Art in Politics – The Arc is Long*, highlights how creativity and activism have helped shape progress over time, and it also marks the 50th anniversary of the first Pride March in Britain. LGBT+ History Month was first created in 1994 by an American high school teacher, Rodney Wilson, and was introduced in the U.K. in 2005 by Sue Sanders and Paul Patrick from Schools OUT U.K., following the repeal of Section 28, a law that restricted discussion of homosexuality in schools. The month is now celebrated in

many countries around the world, although the timing differs, and it has grown to include hundreds of events, media coverage, and school activities. The main goals of LGBT+ History Month are to increase visibility of LGBT+ people and their history, educate others, provide role models, and help make schools and other institutions safer and more inclusive spaces. It also reminds society of the long struggle for equal rights and encourages acceptance, showing that learning about differences helps everyone feel respected and valued, which ultimately benefits the whole community.

*Queer Power: Icons, Activists and Game Changers from Across the Rainbow* by Dom and Ink

Covering topics including coming out, gender, mental health and activism, this book is packed full of empowering quotes, inspiring life lessons and helpful advice that will encourage you to embrace your story and find your power.

*Queer: A Graphic History* by Meg-John Barker

Activist-academic Meg John Barker and cartoonist Julia Scheele illuminate the histories of queer thought and LGBTQ+ action in this groundbreaking non-fiction graphic novel. A kaleidoscope of characters from the diverse worlds of pop-culture, film, activism and academia guide us on a journey through the ideas, people and events that have shaped queer theory. From identity politics and gender roles to privilege and exclusion, *Queer* explores how we came to view sex, gender and sexuality in the ways that we do; how these ideas get tangled up with our culture and our understanding of biology, psychology and sexology; and how these views have been disputed and challenged.

Holocaust Memorial Day 27th January

Holocaust Memorial Day is observed every year on January 27 and is dedicated to remembering the millions of people who were murdered by Nazi Germany during the Holocaust, including about six million Jewish people and millions of others such as Roma, people with disabilities, Jehovah's Witnesses, and political opponents. The Holocaust was driven by extreme antisemitism and the Nazi plan known as the "Final Solution," which aimed to remove Jewish people from society through discrimination, violence, and eventually mass murder. After World War II began in 1939, Jews in occupied countries like Poland were forced into overcrowded ghettos with terrible living conditions designed to cause suffering and death, and later many were killed by mobile death squads or sent to extermination camps such as Chelmo. Holocaust Memorial Day was officially recognized by the United Nations in 2005 to mark the anniversary of the liberation of Nazi concentration camps and to ensure that the victims are never forgotten. On this day, people around the world come together to learn

about what happened, honour survivors, and remember those whose lives were destroyed, while also reflecting on the importance of standing up against hatred, discrimination, and genocide. By remembering the Holocaust, Holocaust Memorial Day reminds us that history must not be repeated and encourages empathy, responsibility, and action to help create a more just and humane future. To learn more about Holocaust Memorial Day, [click here](#).



HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY TRUST

Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank and Otto Frank

In July 1942 thirteen-year-old Anne Frank and her family, fleeing the horrors of Nazi occupation, went into hiding in an Amsterdam warehouse. Over the next two years Anne vividly describes in her diary the frustrations of living in such confined quarters. This unabridged, definitive text reveals Anne's innermost thoughts and feelings as she grows up, and provides a deeply moving true-life story that comes to an abrupt and tragic end.

*The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak

It is 1939. In Nazi Germany, the country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier - and will become busier still. By her brother's graveside, *Liesel's* life is changed forever when she picks up a single object, abandoned in the snow. It is *The Gravedigger's Handbook*, and this is her first act of book theft. So begins *Liesel's* love affair with books and words, and soon she is stealing from Nazi book-burnings, the mayor's wife's library . . . wherever there are books to be found. But these are dangerous times, and when *Liesel's* foster family hides a Jew in their basement, nothing will ever be the same again.

