



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!



World Dracula Day - May 26th

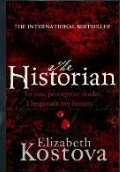


World Dracula Day was created in 2017 by the Whitby Dracula Society to celebrate the 120th anniversary of the publication of Bram Stoker's *Dracula* in 1897. The eponymous villain in Stoker's novel is based on real historical figure Vlad the Impaler, a cruel ruler from Romania known for the atrocities committed during his violent reign. Stoker was also heavily inspired by folklore, particularly Irish myths of vampires and banshees, as well as changelings and malevolent fairy folk. *Dracula* is an epistolary novel told through letters, diary entries, and newspaper articles as it follows the tale of Jonathan Harker, a lawyer who visits Count Dracula's castle in Eastern Europe, where he soon learns the terrible truth about its inhabitants.

Later in the novel, Dracula travels to England and causes chaos in Whitby, hence the location of the Dracula Society. In the novel, Dracula is eventually defeated by a group led by vampire hunter Dr Abraham Van Helsing. Interestingly, Stoker's full first name is Abraham, as was his father's. The significance of the name being assigned to Van Helsing has been debated by scholars, with author Robert Tracy believing Van Helsing to be "an idealised self-portrait" of Stoker. Count Dracula is one of the most iconic monsters in history, inspiring countless movies, books, and pop culture references. World Dracula Day celebrates Stoker's contribution to literature (and consequently cinema), meaning you don't have to wait for Halloween to enjoy his legacy.

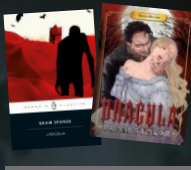
The Historian by Elizabeth Kostova

For centuries, the story of *Dracula* has captured the imagination of readers and storytellers alike. Kostova's breathtaking first novel, ten years in the writing, is an accomplished retelling of this ancient tale... Breathtakingly suspenseful and beautifully written, *The Historian* is the story of a young woman plunged into a labyrinth where the secrets of her family's past connect to an inconceivable evil: the dark fifteenth-century reign of Vlad the Impaler and a time-defying pact that may have kept his awful work alive through the ages. The search for the truth becomes an adventure of monumental proportions, taking us from monasteries and dusty libraries to the capitals of Eastern Europe in a feat of storytelling so rich, so hypnotic, so exciting that it has enthralled readers around the world.



Manga Classics: Dracula by Virginia Nitouhei, Stacy King and Bram Stoker

An ancient evil lurks in the dark heart of Transylvania - but it won't lurk there forever. Now Count Dracula's immortal eyes look toward London, a new land full of opportunity and unsuspecting victims. A ragged band of survivors must stop him before it is too late... but how?



Dracula by Bram Stoker

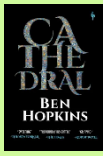
Count Dracula sleeps in a lordly tomb in the vaults beneath his desolate castle. His stony eyes are open. His cheeks have the flush of life beneath their pallor. On his lips - a mocking, sensuous smile and scarlet-fresh blood. He has been dead for centuries, yet he may never die... Here begins the story of an evil ages old and forever new. It is the story of those who feed a diabolic craving into the veins of their victims, into the men and women from whose blood they draw their only sustenance. It is a novel of peculiar power, of hypnotic fascination. The reader is warned that he who enters Castle Dracula may not escape its baleful spell, even when he closes this book.

"It is easy to sit up and take notice, what is difficult is getting up and taking action." – Honoré de Balzac



Cathedral by Ben Hopkins

A thoroughly immersive read and a remarkable feat of imagination, *Cathedral* tells a sweeping story about obsession, mysticism, art, and earthly desire in gripping prose. It deftly combines historical fiction and a tale of adventure and intrigue. At the centre of this story is the *Cathedral*. Its design and construction in the 12th and 13th centuries in the town of Hagenburg unites a vast array of unforgettable characters whose fortunes are inseparable from the shifting political factions and economic interests vying for supremacy. Around this narrative centre, Ben Hopkins has constructed his own monumental edifice, a novel that is rich with the vicissitudes of mercantilism, politics, religion, and human enterprise.



Marple: Twelve New Stories by Naomi Alderman et al

A brand new collection of short stories featuring the Queen of Crime's legendary detective Jane Marple, penned by twelve remarkable bestselling and acclaimed authors. This collection of twelve original short stories, all featuring Jane Marple, will introduce the character to a whole new generation. Each author reimagines Agatha Christie's Marple through their own unique perspective while staying true to the hallmarks of a traditional mystery. Miss Marple was first introduced to readers in a story Christie wrote for *The Royal Magazine* in 1927 and made her first appearance in a full-length novel in 1930's *The Murder at the Vicarage*. This collection of ingenious new stories by twelve Christie devotees will be a timely reminder why Jane Marple remains the most famous fictional female detective of all time.



Anisha Accidental Detective #7: Beach Disaster by Serena Patel

It's finally time for our Year 6 residential trip, and we're off to the beach! I can't wait for three days having fun with my friends, learning about animal habitats and being free from grown-ups. We might even win a prize for our project! Except, Granny Jas has turned up as a surprise chaperone, and she won't stop showing everyone my embarrassing baby photos. And now someone is messing with our habitat project - breaking things and dumping litter on the beach. Someone needs to stop them, before they ruin all our hard work. Looks like a case for me, Anisha, accidental eco-detective!



Black Butler: Volume 4 by Yana Toboso

London - the capital of the Great Empire - is once again under siege, as a string of bizarre attacks on British citizens returned from India sends rumours flying and casts a pall upon Queen Victoria's rule. Sent in by Her Majesty, young Earl Phantomhive and his most capable butler, Sebastian, follow a trail that collides head-on with an Indian youth who claims to be a prince. And this prince possesses an extraordinary butler of his own! As an intense rivalry between the two butlers begins to form, will the kitchen be the duelling duo's final battleground?!

Danganronpa The Animation: Volume 2 by Takashi Tsukimi

Where you don't drop out... you drop dead!!! Having lived through the first round of judgment in the trap that is Hope's Peak Academy, bonds are beginning to form among the surviving students. But the evil paws of Monokuma, the villainous bear that holds them captive, are stretched around them...one black, one white, signifying that at this school there's only room for two kinds of students--those found innocent--and those found guilty!

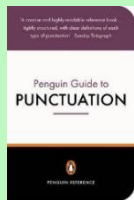
Manga's New Location

The manga section has moved from the spinner to the left of the desk and can now be found on the bookshelf to the right of the desk, next to the weekly featured books. Our manga collection is ever-expanding and in its new location we have space to keep adding more titles ☺



Study Suggests Marked Decline in Semicolon Use

A recent study run by experts at the language learning software Babbel has found that the semicolon 'seems to be in terminal decline'. The usage of the semicolon in English books has fallen by nearly half in the past two decades, dropping from appearing once every 205 words in the year 2,000, to appearing once every 390 words today. Struck by these results, Babbel commissioned Lisa McLendon, author of *The Perfect English Grammar Workbook*, to do further research. McLendon found that more than half of 500,000 students polled did not know or understand how to use the semicolon. As defined by the *Oxford Dictionary of English*, the semicolon is "a punctuation mark indicating a pause, typically between two main clauses, that is more pronounced than that indicated by a comma". The semicolon first appeared in the work of Italian scholar and printer Aldus Pius Manutius the Elder in 1494 and has remained controversial since, with many notable authors both lauding and loathing the punctuation mark. Click [here](#) to read Grammarly's guide to using semicolons. Click [here](#) to read the original *Guardian* article by Amelia Hill.

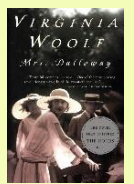


The Penguin Guide to Punctuation by R.L. Trask

Do you find punctuation difficult? Are you puzzled by colons and semicolons? Unsure of where commas should go? Confused by hyphens and apostrophes? If so, then this jargon-free and succinct guide is for you. Contains precise and up-to-date definitions of every type of punctuation mark and shows how each should be used. Gives numerous examples of good and bad usage. Explains the correct use of capital letters, contractions and abbreviations, italics, boldface and the special characters available on a word processor.

Where to Start With: Virginia Woolf

In the wake of *Mrs Dalloway*'s 100th anniversary last week, *The Guardian* have written a guide to Virginia Woolf's 'greatest hits.' Among other works, the list highlights: Woolf's first novel *The Voyage Out*, which was written in a relatively conventional form compared to her later works; *The Waves* which has a reputation for being difficult and which Woolf wrote "in a kind of trance"; and *To the Lighthouse*, perhaps the author's most personal novel, written in memory of her mother who died when Woolf was 13. You can find Francesca Wade's original article [here](#).



The Entry Point: Mrs Dalloway by Virginia Woolf

Heralded as Virginia Woolf's greatest novel, this is a vivid portrait of a single day in a woman's life. When we meet her, Mrs. Clarissa Dalloway is preoccupied with the last-minute details of party preparation while in her mind she is something much more than a perfect society hostess. As she reads her house, she is flooded with remembrances of faraway times. And, met with the realities of the present, Clarissa reexamines the choices that brought her there, hesitantly looking ahead to the unfamiliar work of growing old.



Her Breakthrough: The Voyage Out by Virginia Woolf

A party of English people are aboard the *Euphrosyne*, bound for South America. Among them is a young girl, Rachel Vinrace, innocent and wholly ignorant of the world of politics and society, books, sex, love and marriage. She is a free spirit half-caught, momentarily and passionately, by Terence Hewet, an aspiring writer, but her greatest discovery will be her own self.

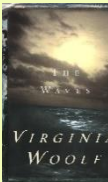


Most Quotable: A Room of One's Own and Three Guineas by Virginia Woolf

A Room of One's Own, based on a lecture given at Girton College Cambridge, is one of the great feminist polemics, ranging in its themes from Jane Austen and Charlotte Bronte to the silent fate of Shakespeare's gifted (imaginary) sister and the effects of poverty and sexual constraint on female creativity. Published almost a decade later *Three Guineas* breaks new ground in its discussion of men, militarism and women's attitudes towards war. These two pieces reveal Virginia Woolf's fiery spirit and sophisticated wit and confirm her status as a highly inspirational essayist.

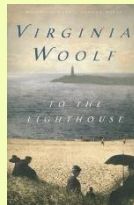
Worth Persevering With: The Waves by Virginia Woolf

Set on the coast of England against the vivid background of the sea, *The Waves* introduces six characters—three men and three women—who are grappling with the death of a beloved friend, Percival. Instead of describing their outward expressions of grief, Virginia Woolf draws her characters from the inside, revealing them through their thoughts and interior soliloquies. As their understanding of nature's trials grows, the chorus of narrative voices blends together in miraculous harmony, remarking not only on the inevitable death of individuals but on the eternal connection of everyone. The novel that most epitomizes Virginia Woolf's theories of fiction in the working form.



The Masterpiece: To the Lighthouse by Virginia Woolf

The serene and maternal Mrs. Ramsay, the tragic yet absurd Mr. Ramsay, and their children and assorted guests are on holiday on the Isle of Skye. From the seemingly trivial postponement of a visit to a nearby lighthouse, Woolf constructs a remarkable, moving examination of the complex tensions and allegiances of family life and the conflict between men and women. As time winds its way through their lives, the Ramsays face, alone and simultaneously, the greatest of human challenges and its greatest triumph—the human capacity for change.



Abi Daré Wins Inaugural Climate Fiction Prize



Nigerian author Abi Daré has won the first ever Climate Fiction Prize. The prize, which was launched this year, intends to 'celebrate the most inspiring novels tackling the climate crisis.' Prize organisers want to 'reward and showcase powerful stories that depict the human response to climate change; how it impacts us and how society responds.'

Daré won the prize for her 2024 novel *And So I Roar*, a sequel to her 2020 bestselling debut *The Girl with the Louding Voice*. *And So I Roar* delves into the lives of rural women and girls in Nigeria, whose lives are impacted by environmental collapse. The prize ceremony was held on Wednesday 14th May during which Daré received the £10,000 prize money. The author said of her win, "As a Black British-Nigerian woman, receiving this prize is a reminder

that we do not need to wait for permission to step into global conversations or to contort our stories to fit a certain lens." Chair of Judges Madeleine Bunting described *And So I Roar* as: "a book of real energy and passion, which both horrifies and entertains with a cast of compelling characters, a story of how the climate crisis can provoke social crisis where often women and children are the victims. Despite the tragedy, Abi Daré holds faith in the strength of individuals and relationships, and her hopefulness leaves us inspired."

On its website, a spokesperson for the prize said of its importance, "Many of us already see tackling climate as important, but we don't always know how we should respond. Fiction can help us imagine what change can look like." *And So I Roar* was one of five books to be shortlisted for the prize, alongside titles such as *The Ministry of Time* by Kaliane Bradley, and *Orbital* by Samantha Harvey. Click [here](#) to learn more about the Climate Fiction Prize.

The Girl with the Louding Voice by Abi Daré (Recommended for Older Readers)

All you have are your words. Adunni is a fourteen-year-old Nigerian girl who knows what she wants: an education. As the only daughter of a broke father, she is a valuable commodity. Removed from school and sold as a third wife to an old man, Adunni's life amounts to this: four goats, two bags of rice, some chickens and a new TV. When unspeakable tragedy swiftly strikes in her new home, she is secretly sold as a domestic servant to a household in the wealthy enclaves of Lagos, where no one will talk about the strange disappearance of her predecessor, Rebecca. No one but Adunni... As a yielding daughter, a subservient wife, and a powerless servant, fourteen-year-old Adunni is repeatedly told that she is nothing. But Adunni won't be silenced. She is determined to find her voice - in a whisper, in song, in broken English - until she can speak for herself, for the girls like Rebecca who came before, and for all the girls who will follow.

