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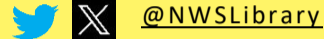
Happy reading! – Miss Mullins, Miss Walker, and Miss Henry



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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!

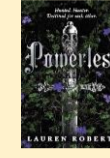


"May, more than any other month of the year, wants us to feel alive." – Fennel Hudson

NEW

Powerless #1 by Lauren Roberts

Only the extraordinary belong in the kingdom of Ilya... Red Queen meets The Hunger Games in the most epic and sizzling fantasy romance book of the year. The Elites have possessed powers for decades, gifted to them by the Plague, while those born Ordinary are just that, banished from the kingdom of Ilya and shunned from society. No one knows this better than Paedyn Gray, an Ordinary posing as a Psychic to blend in with the Elites. When she unsuspectingly saves one of Ilya's princes, Kai Azer, she's thrown into the Purging Trials, a brutal competition showcasing the Elites' powers. If the Trials and the opponents within them don't kill her, the prince she's fighting feelings for will if he discovers what Paedyn is... completely Ordinary.

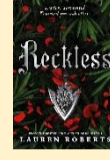


No Friend to This House by Natalie Haynes

Jason and his Argonauts set sail to find the Golden Fleece. The journey is filled with danger, for him and everyone he meets. But if he ever reaches the distant land he seeks, he faces almost certain death. Medea—priestess, witch, and daughter of a brutal king—has the power to save the life of a stranger. Will she betray her family and her home, and what will she demand in return? Medea and Jason seize their one chance of a life together, as the gods intend. But their love is steeped in vengeance from the beginning, and no one—not even those closest to them—will be safe. Based on the classic tragedy by Euripides, this is Medea as you've never seen her before...

Reckless #2 by Lauren Roberts

Ordinary-born Paedyn Gray has killed the King and kickstarted a Resistance throughout the land. Now she's running from the one person she had wanted to run to. Kai Azer is now Ilya's enforcer, loyal to his brother Kit, the new king. He has vowed to find Paedyn and bring her to justice. Across the deadly Scarches, and deep into the hostile city of Dor, Kai pursues the one person he wishes he didn't have to. But in a city without Elites, the balance between the hunter and hunted shifts. How far will he go for duty, and what will she do to survive?

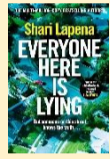


The Shadow of the Gods #1 by John Gwynne

After the gods warred and drove themselves to extinction, the cataclysm of their fall shattered the land of Vigrið. Now a new world is rising, where power-hungry jarls feud and monsters stalk the woods and mountains. A world where the bones of the dead gods still hold great power for those brave - or desperate - enough to seek them out. Now, as whispers of war echo across the mountains and fjords, fate follows in the footsteps of three people: a huntress on a dangerous quest, a noblewoman who has rejected privilege in pursuit of battle fame, and a thrall who seeks vengeance among the famed mercenaries known as the Bloodsworn. All three will shape the fate of the world as it once more falls under the shadow of the gods.

Everyone Here is Lying by Shari Lapena

Welcome to Stanhope! A safe neighbourhood. A place for families. William Wooler is a family man, on the surface. But he's been having an affair, an affair that ended horribly this afternoon at a motel up the road. So when he returns to his house, devastated and angry, to find his difficult nine-year-old daughter, Ella, unexpectedly home from school, William loses his temper. Hours later, Ella's family declares her missing. Suddenly Stanhope doesn't feel so safe. And William isn't the only one on his street who's hiding a lie. As witnesses come forward with information that may or may not be true, Ella's neighbours become increasingly unhinged. Who took Ella Wooler? Nothing will prepare you for the truth...



The Boy in the Dress by Road Dahl

Dennis is a boy who lives in a boring house in a boring street in a boring town, and he doesn't have much to look forward to. But what he does have is dreams and once he starts to follow them, things will never be the same again.



Scarlet and Ivy: The Curse in the Candlelight #5 by Sophie Cleverly

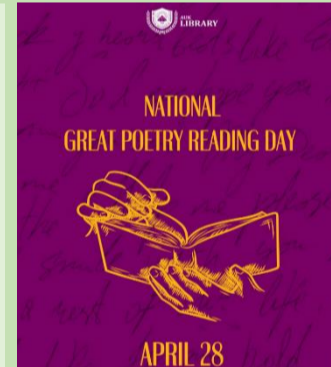
There's a new girl at Rookwood School, and new mystery for Scarlet and Ivy to solve. It's a brand-new term for Scarlet and Ivy, and the girls are intrigued by a fascinating new girl, Ebony. She's as enchanting as she is mysterious, and she's begun to gather quite the following—in fact, most of the younger girls appear to be under her spell. But rumours swirl like ghosts around Ebony, and not all of them are nice. And when a prank on All Hallow's Eve goes horribly wrong, it's Ebony who gets the blame. Ivy and Scarlet aren't so sure. There might be more to Ebony than meets the eye, but surely she's not dangerous? But if it's not Ebony, then who or what is to blame?



28th April is Great Poetry Reading Day

Great Poetry Reading Day is an annual celebration that highlights the power of poetry as a timeless and universal form of expression that goes beyond cultural and historical boundaries, allowing poets to use words to paint vivid pictures and communicate deep emotions and experiences. It encourages both experienced writers and newcomers to engage with poetry by reading a wide range of works, from classic to modern, and even trying to write their own poems to express personal thoughts and creativity. People can also take part in or organize poetry readings, explore poems from different cultures to better understand diverse perspectives, and share their favourite pieces on social media to spread appreciation for the art form. In schools, teachers may use the day to inspire students through activities like writing workshops or discussions about famous poets.

The day also invites reflection on how poetry has influenced individuals and society, serving as a tool for storytelling, emotional expression, and even social change throughout history. Poetry itself dates to ancient times, when it was used to preserve culture and history through oral storytelling, with early works like the "Epic of Gilgamesh" and later famous writings such as Shakespeare's sonnets showing how poetry has evolved over time. Today, poetry continues to grow through digital platforms, reaching wider audiences, and Great Poetry Reading Day ultimately celebrates its lasting importance in capturing and sharing the human experience. To find out more, [click here](#).



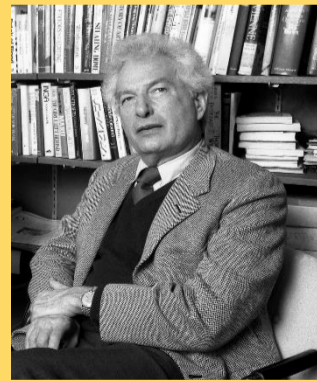
On This Day... Mary Wollstonecraft was born 27th April 1759

Mary Wollstonecraft was an important English writer and one of the earliest advocates for women's rights, especially in education and social equality. Born in London in 1759, she grew up in a difficult family environment and later worked as a teacher and governess, which helped her realise how limited girls' education was compared to boys'. These experiences inspired her early writing, where she argued that women were not naturally less intelligent, but were held back by a lack of proper education. She went on to work as a translator and writer, producing novels and essays, but her most famous work was A Vindication of the Rights of Woman, published in 1792. In this groundbreaking book, she argued that women should have the same educational opportunities as men, and that if they did, they could become not only better wives and mothers but also independent thinkers and professionals. She believed that improving women's rights was not just fair but would strengthen society. Wollstonecraft also lived during a time of major political change and even travelled to France to witness the French Revolution, which influenced her ideas about equality and human rights. Her personal life was often challenging; she had a relationship with an American, Gilbert Imlay, which ended badly and led to a period of deep distress. Later, she became involved with philosopher William Godwin, and they married in 1797. Sadly, she died just 11 days after giving birth to their daughter, Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, who would later become a famous writer herself. Although Wollstonecraft's ideas were controversial at the time and did not lead to immediate changes, they became highly influential in the 19th century and beyond, inspiring key figures in the women's rights movement such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Today, she is remembered as a pioneer of feminism whose work challenged traditional views of women and helped lay the foundation for greater equality, showing how powerful ideas can create long-term social change.



On This Day... Joseph Heller was born 1st May 1923

Joseph Heller was an American writer best known for his famous novel Catch-22, which became one of the most important and influential books about war in the 20th century. Born in 1923 in Brooklyn, New York, to Russian Jewish immigrant parents, Heller served in World War II as a bombardier, flying 60 combat missions in Europe, and these real-life experiences strongly influenced his writing. After the war, he studied at Columbia University and later at the University of Oxford, before working as a teacher and then in advertising, all while writing his novel in his spare time. When Catch-22 was published in 1961, it received mixed reviews at first but later became extremely popular and developed a cult following because of its dark humour and unusual storytelling style. The novel follows a soldier named Captain John Yossarian, who is trying to survive the war but is trapped by a confusing military rule known as a "catch-22," where no matter what he does, he cannot escape



danger; this idea became so well known that the phrase "catch-22" is now used in everyday language to describe any situation where there is no clear solution. The book criticises the absurdity and cruelty of war, showing how soldiers are often put in impossible situations by those in power. Heller wrote several other novels, such as *Something Happened* and *Good as Gold*, but none were as successful as *Catch-22*. Later in his life, he continued writing, including a sequel called *Closing Time* and an autobiography about his life. Although his work was sometimes controversial, Heller is now remembered as a major literary figure who used humour and satire to explore serious issues like war, power, and human survival, and his writing continues to influence readers and writers today. To find out more, [click here](#).



27th April is World Design Day!

World Design Day is an annual event that celebrates the importance of design in our everyday lives and encourages people to recognise how it shapes the world around them, from the technology we use to the buildings and public spaces we interact with. It offers many ways to get involved, such as visiting museums or galleries to explore the history and future of design, attending workshops or talks to learn more, or even starting your own design project to bring creative ideas to life. People can also join online communities by sharing inspiring designs, support local designers by promoting or buying their work, and take time to



3rd May is Write a Review Day

Write a Review Day is a fun and meaningful occasion that encourages people to share their opinions about products, restaurants, hotels, and travel experiences to help others make better decisions. It's easy to take part, even if you've never written a review before—just include useful details like when you visited, the quality of service, pricing, cleanliness, and your overall experience, while being honest and specific so your review is helpful. Longer, more detailed reviews are often more useful than short ones, as they give readers a clearer picture of what to expect. You can post reviews on popular platforms like TripAdvisor, Google, Yelp, or OpenTable, where people around the world read and rely on feedback before choosing where to eat, stay, or visit. Reading reviews is just as important as writing them, but it's good to remember that people are more likely to post negative experiences, so it's important to look at the overall balance of

