



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

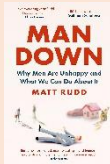
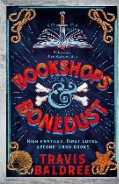
We look forward to seeing you!



NEW

Bookshops and Bonedust by Travis Baldree

Viv's career with the notorious mercenary company Rackam's Ravens isn't going as planned. Wounded during the hunt for a powerful necromancer, she's packed off against her will to recuperate in the sleepy beach town of Murk-so far from the action that she worries she'll never be able to return to it. What's a thwarted soldier of fortune to do? Spending her hours at a beleaguered bookshop in the company of its foul-mouthed proprietor is the last thing Viv would have predicted, but it may be both exactly what she needs and the seed of changes she couldn't possibly imagine. Still, adventure isn't all that far away. A suspicious traveller in grey, a gnome with a chip on her shoulder, a summer fling, and an improbable number of skeletons prove Murk to be more eventful than Viv could have ever expected.



Man Down by Matt Rudd

An alarming number of men end up anxious, exhausted, depressed - and very reluctant to admit they are. Even if they do everything that's expected of them in work, life and fatherhood, genuine happiness is still elusive. By midlife, their levels of stress are higher, and their levels of wellbeing are lower - and work-life balance turns out to be just a cruel illusion. The evidence is clear and the system set up by men for men doesn't work for men either. It is making none of us happy. In *Man Down*, Matt Rudd takes the long view on this perplexing paradox. Drawing on stories from his own life, and the varied lives of the other men he has interviewed, he goes back to the beginning to consider what makes the modern man - how the seeds of midlife misery are sown in the school playground and cultivated through adolescence and into adulthood. By turns compassionate and provocative, *Man Down* asks the important question: is midlife unhappiness inevitable? Spoiler it isn't.

The Dunwich Horror and Other Stories by H.P. Lovecraft (recommended for older readers)

The story of Wilbur Whateley, son of a deformed albino mother and an unknown father, and the strange events surrounding his birth and precocious development. Wilbur matures at an abnormal rate, reaching manhood within a decade—all the while indoctrinated him into dark rituals and witchcraft by his grandfather.

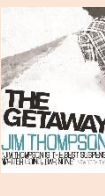


Antigone by Jean Anouilh

Based on Sophocles' ancient Greek tragedy, *Antigone* which was first performed in Athens in the 5th century BC, its theme was nevertheless topical. For in *Antigone*'s faithfulness to her dead brother and his proper burial and her reiterated "No!" to the dictator Creon, the French audience saw its own resistance to the German occupation. The Germans allowed the play to be performed presumably because they found Creon's arguments for dictatorship so convincing. The play is regularly performed and studied around the world.

The Getaway by Jim Thompson

THE GETAWAY is the classic story of a bank robbery gone horribly wrong, where the smallest mistakes have catastrophic consequences, and shifting loyalties lead to betrayals and chaos. The basis for the classic Steve McQueen film of the same name, as well as a 1994 remake with Alec Baldwin, Thompson's novel set the bar for every heist story that followed—but as Thompson's proved time and again, nobody's ever done it better than the master.



Seoul Before Sunrise by Samir Dahimani

Haunted by a lost friendship, Seong-Ji (re)discovers herself during nocturnal exploration of a dreamlike Seoul. Longtime friends Seong-ji and Ji-won are excited to begin university in Seoul, swearing to stay close in the big city, but from the moment they arrive, they begin to drift apart. Her focus split between her accounting program and her overnight job at a grocery store, Seong-ji tries to make peace with the loss. It's during her overnight shifts that she encounters an enigmatic young woman who spends her nights entering the empty homes of other people to paint and photograph these places. Now, the normally rational Seong-ji finds herself swept up in a dreamlike otherworld, made up of freedom and creativity. As she explores these quiet places, she uncovers not only an intimate portrait of strangers, but perhaps even herself.

The Trials of Apollo: The Dark Prophecy #2 by Rick Riordan

After experiencing a series of dangerous—and frankly, humiliating—trials at Camp Half-Blood, Lester must now leave the relative safety of the demigod training ground and embark on a hair-raising journey across North America. Fortunately, what he lacks in godly graces he's gaining in new friendships—with heroes who will be very familiar to fans of the *Percy Jackson* and the *Olympians* and *Heroes of Olympus* series. Come along for what promises to be a harrowing, hilarious, and haiku-filled ride...



Nature's Ghosts by Sophie Yeo

In *Nature's Ghosts*, award-winning journalist Sophie Yeo examines how the planet would have looked before humans scrubbed away its diversity: from landscapes carved out by megafauna to the primeval forests that emerged following the last Ice Age, and from the eagle-haunted skies of the Dark Ages to the flower-decked farms of more recent centuries. Uncovering the stories of the people who have helped to shape the landscape, she seeks out their footprints even where it seems there are none to be found. And she explores the timeworn knowledge that can help to fix our broken relationship with the earth.

Remember Remember, the 5th of November...

Bonfire Night, also known as Guy Fawkes Night, is a famous celebration that takes place every year on November 5th. It marks the failure of the Gunpowder Plot of 1605, when Guy Fawkes, Robert Catesby, and a group of Catholic conspirators tried to blow up the Houses of Parliament and assassinate King James I. Their goal was to protest the king's harsh treatment of Catholics and restore their religion to power in England. The plan was to ignite barrels of gunpowder hidden beneath the Palace of Westminster on the opening day of Parliament. However, the plot unravelled when one of the conspirators sent an anonymous letter to a member of Parliament warning him to stay away from the building. The warning reached the authorities, and Fawkes was caught guarding the explosives. He and the others were arrested and sentenced to death for treason, though Fawkes avoided the full punishment by jumping to his death before the execution. That same night, people across London celebrated the king's survival by lighting bonfires, and in 1606, Parliament made November 5th an official day of thanksgiving. Today, the tradition continues across the UK with bonfires, fireworks, and festive gatherings, reminding people of a dramatic moment in British history when a deadly plot turned into a night of national celebration.



V for Vendetta by Alan Moore, David Lloyd (recommended for older readers)

A frightening and powerful tale of the loss of freedom and identity in a chillingly believable totalitarian world, *V for Vendetta* stands as one of the highest achievements of the comics medium and a defining work for creators Alan Moore and David Lloyd. Set in an imagined future England that has given itself over to fascism, this groundbreaking story captures both the suffocating nature of life in an authoritarian police state and the redemptive power of the human spirit which rebels against it. Crafted with sterling clarity and intelligence, *V for Vendetta* brings an unequalled depth of characterization and verisimilitude to its unflinching account of oppression and resistance.



National Cancer Awareness Day in India



National Cancer Awareness Day is observed every year in India on November 7th to spread awareness about the importance of early detection and prevention of cancer. It was first announced in 2014 by Dr. Harsh Vardhan, the Indian Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, who wanted to encourage people to adopt healthier lifestyles and undergo regular screenings to detect cancer in its early stages. The date was chosen to honour the birth anniversary of Marie Curie, the Nobel Prize-winning scientist whose groundbreaking discoveries of radium and polonium played a major role in developing radiotherapy, one of the key treatments for cancer. National Cancer Awareness Day builds on earlier initiatives like the National Cancer Control Programme, which began in 1975 to provide treatment facilities and was later expanded in the 1980s to focus more on prevention and early detection. On this day, government hospitals

offer free cancer screenings and information booklets are distributed to educate people about the causes, symptoms, and prevention of cancer. In India, cancer remains a serious health issue, with over 1.1 million new cases reported each year. Cervical, breast, oral, and lung cancers are among the most common, and tobacco use alone is responsible for hundreds of thousands of deaths annually. Dr. Harsh Vardhan has emphasised that early detection not only saves lives but also reduces the cost and complexity of treatment. National Cancer Awareness Day serves as a reminder that awareness, prevention, and timely medical care are key to fighting this life-threatening disease.

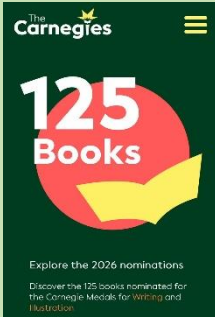
Cancer: A Very Short Introduction by Nick James

This book explores the facts underlying these figures, starting with the basic facts about the disease before moving on to the bigger picture of the economics and politics of cancer care. Nick James, founder of the Cancer Help UK website, examines the trends in diagnosis of the disease and the constant improvements in treatment techniques that result in better cure rates and increased quality and quantity of life for cancer patients.



2026 Carnegie Nominations Are In!

The nominations for the 2026 Carnegie Medals, the UK's most prestigious and longest-running children's book awards, have been announced, with a total of 125 books in the running. Sixty-two titles are competing for the Carnegie Medal for Writing, which honours outstanding storytelling for young readers, while sixty-five are nominated for the Carnegie Medal for Illustration, which celebrates excellence in visual storytelling. Notably, two books have been nominated in both categories, and beloved author Jeremy Strong has been recognised posthumously for his final work, *Fox Goes North*. The Carnegies are organized by CLIP, the UK's library and information association, and are uniquely judged by a panel of 14 volunteer librarians from CLIP's Youth Libraries Group. These judges will read every nominated book before deciding the longlists, shortlists, and final winners, which will be announced in June 2026. The awards are also famous for their *Carnegie Shadowing Scheme*, which allows children and young people in schools and libraries across the UK and abroad to act as judges by reading, reviewing, and voting for their favourite books. This was running as a lunchtime club last year for Year7s. Look out later into the following term to find out more about the club! For 2026, a new age-inclusive shadowing offer is being launched to celebrate the National Year of Reading, making it easier for readers of all ages to get involved with tailored resources and flexible book selections. Supported by sponsors including ALCS, Sora, and Scholastic, the 2026 Carnegies promise another exciting celebration of creativity, imagination, and the power of reading to inspire and connect people of all ages. Take a look below at some of last year's Carnegie Medal for Writing books that our previous year7s judged:



Treacle Town by Brian Conaghan

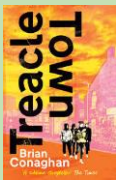
Connor is desperate to get away, to find another life where he can experience happiness and fulfilment. When he stumbles upon the new world of slam poetry, Con senses a glimmer of hope - a hope that might just lead to his escape from Treacle Town.

Little Bang by Kelly McCaughrain

Beneath the New Year's Eve fireworks, shy science-nerd Mel and slacker songwriter Sid get pregnant on their first date. Any sixteen-year-olds would expect trouble - but this is Northern Ireland 2018, where abortion is still illegal. Mel's religious parents insist she must keep the baby, whilst Sid's feminist mum pushes for a termination. When their relationship starts to fall apart under all the pressure, Mel finds herself feeling alone with the impossible dilemma of the Little Bang growing inside her.

The Final Year by Matt Goodfellow and Joe Todd-Stanton

Nate is ready for it all, knowing his best friend PS at his side - they've been inseparable since Nursery. But when they are put in two different classes and PS finds a new friend in Turner, the school bully, his world turns upside-down. As he struggles to make sense of this and forge new friendships, he's dealt another blow when his youngest brother, Dylan is rushed into hospital. His new teacher, Mr Joshua, sees a spark inside of Nate that's lit by his love of reading and writing and shows him how to use this to make sense of what's going on. But with so much working against him, and anger rising inside him, will this be enough?



King of Nothing by Nathanael Lessoro

Anton and his friends are the kings of year 9. They're used to ruling the school and Anton wears the crown. The other kids run away when he's about but that's the way he wants it - he's got a reputation to live up to after all. But after Matthew unexpectedly saves Anton's life, Anton figures maybe this kid is worth a shot. Teaching him some game is the least Anton can do to repay the debt. As the boys strike up an unlikely friendship, Anton finds himself questioning everything he thought was important. Does he want ruling the school to be his crowning glory or should he set his sights on better things?

The Thing We Leave Behind by Clare Furniss

After years of a growing totalitarian regime, civil unrest in London has reached an all-time high, and it's no longer safe to stay in the city. Fleeing with nothing but her half-sister Billie, a notebook filled with stories and memories of home, Clem must make the treacherous journey to Edinburgh, first by road and then by boat. What waits for the sisters on the other side - the start of a new life, or a mirror held up to the past?

Glasgow Boys by Margaret McDonald

Finlay nor Banjo can remember the last time they had a hug. Against all odds, 18-year-old Finlay has begun his nursing degree at Glasgow University. But coming straight from the care system means he has no support network. How can he write essays, focus on his nursing placement and stop himself from falling in love when he's struggling to feed himself? Meanwhile, 17-year-old Banjo is trying to settle into his new foster family and finish high school, desperate to hold down his job and the people it contains. But his anger and fear keep boiling over, threatening his already uncertain future.

On This Day... Albert Camus was Born 7th November 1913



Albert Camus was born on November 7, 1913, in French Algeria. His father died during World War I when Camus was only a toddler, leaving him to be raised by his mother in poverty. Growing up as a second-generation French person in Algeria, he was labelled a "pied-noir", a slang term for French people born in Algeria, and often felt like an "outsider". Despite his difficult upbringing, Camus studied hard and earned a degree in philosophy from the University of Algiers. During his time at university, he joined the Algerian Communist Party and helped organise the "Workers' Theatre", which aimed to bring art and politics together for the working class. In the late 1930s, he moved to Paris, but his plans to join the army were cut short due to tuberculosis, a disease he struggled with for much of his life. He later married Francine Faure in 1940 and became part of an influential intellectual circle that included famous thinkers like Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir. Camus

gained worldwide fame as a novelist, philosopher, and playwright, known for exploring themes like absurdity and the human condition. His major works, including *The Stranger* and *The Plague*, helped earn him the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1957, making him one of the youngest recipients at the age of 44. Tragically, Camus died in a car accident on January 4, 1960, and his unfinished novel *The First Man* was found in the wreckage. His friends and fellow writers, including Sartre and William Faulkner, paid tribute to him as one of the greatest literary voices of his time—an artist who captured the struggles and beauty of human existence.

The Fall by Albert Camus (recommended for older readers)

Jean-Baptiste Clamence is a soul in turmoil. Over several drunken nights in an Amsterdam bar, he regales a chance acquaintance with his story. From this successful former lawyer and seemingly model citizen a compelling, self-loathing catalogue of guilt, hypocrisy and alienation pours forth. *The Fall* (1956) is a brilliant portrayal of a man who has glimpsed the hollowness of his existence. But beyond depicting one man's disillusionment, Camus's novel exposes the universal human condition and its absurdities - for our innocence that, once lost, can never be recaptured...

The Outsider by Albert Camus (Recommended for older readers)

In *The Outsider* (*L'Étranger*), his classic existentialist novel, Camus explores the predicament of the individual who refuses to pretend and is prepared to face the indifference of the universe, courageously and alone.

