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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

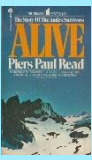
We look forward to seeing you!

"I wonder what it would be like to live in a world where it was always June." – L.M. Montgomery

NEW

Alive: The Story of the Andes Survivors by Piers Paul Read
(Recommended for Older Readers)

On October 12, 1972, a plane carrying a team of young rugby players crashed into the remote, snow-peaked Andes. Out of the forty-five original passengers and crew, only sixteen made it off the mountain alive. For ten excruciating weeks they suffered deprivations beyond imagining, confronting nature head-on at its most furious and inhospitable. And to survive, they were forced to do what would have once been unthinkable... This is their story—one of the most astonishing true adventures of the twentieth century.



Money for Beginners by Matthew Oldham et al

A lot has been written about money. It makes the world goes round. It doesn't grow on trees. It's the root of all evil. This book cuts through the myths and misconceptions to give young readers a simple and accessible introduction to money - from why it shapes the world we live in to where it comes from, and how to increase what's in your pocket.



Clown in a Cornfield by Adam Cesare
(Recommended for Older Readers)

Quinn Maybrook just wants to make it until graduation. She might not make it to morning. Quinn and her father moved to tiny, boring Kettle Springs to find a fresh start. But ever since the Baypen Corn Syrup Factory shut down, Kettle Springs has cracked in half. On one side are the adults, who are desperate to make Kettle Springs great again, and on the other are the kids, who want to have fun, make prank videos, and get out of Kettle Springs as quick as they can. Kettle Springs is caught in a battle between old and new, tradition and progress. It's a fight that looks like it will destroy the town. Until Frendo, the Baypen mascot, a creepy clown in a pork-pie hat, goes homicidal and decides that the only way for Kettle Springs to grow back is to cull the rotten crop of kids who live there now.



Coming Up for Air by Lou Abercrombie

When Coco moves to the seaside town where her mum grew up, she's excited to make friends & find out more about the family her mum has kept from her. What she doesn't expect is to be met with resentment from the community. Whatever secrets her mum's hiding, they run deep. Coco is determined and her love of swimming and natural talent for freediving helps her start to break through with the ocean-loving locals. Until disaster strikes at sea. As history threatens to repeat itself, will Coco ever be able to undo the age-old rift?

Monsters: What Do We Do with Great Art by Bad People? By Claire Dederer



Pablo Picasso beat his partners. Richard Wagner was deeply antisemitic. David Bowie slept with an underage fan. But many of us still love Guernica and the Ring cycle and Ziggy Stardust. And what are we to do with that love? How are we, as fans, to reckon with the biographical choices of the artists whose work sustains us? Wildly smart and insightful, Monsters is an exhilarating attempt to understand our relationship with art and the artist in the twenty-first century.

Beasts of Prey #3: Beasts of War by Ayana Gray

Koffi, once a servant to the god of death, is now free, but her former captor will stop at nothing to hunt her down and use her power to destroy the mortal world. Koffi knows when Fedu will strike: during the Bonding, a once-in-a-lifetime celestial event. She will have to find powerful new allies quickly, and convince them to help her in the battle to come. Ekon, a warrior-turned-runaway, is still haunted by the shadows of his past. Now his task is to get Koffi to the Kusonga Plains before the Bonding - and if he fails, Koffi will not survive. Ekon devotes himself to protecting Koffi, but the lingering threats from his own past are more urgent than he knows. As Koffi and Ekon race to the Kusonga Plains - and try to garner the help of Eshozo's ancient gods along the way - they must face dangerous beasts old and new. In the end, destiny may unite Koffi and Ekon for the last time or tear them apart for good.



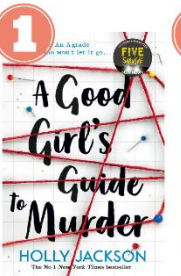
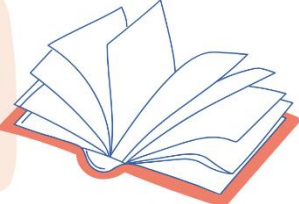
The Secret Barrister: Stories of the Law and How It's Broken by The Secret Barrister

You may not wish to think about it, but one day you or someone you love will almost certainly appear in a criminal courtroom. You might be a juror, a victim, a witness or - perhaps through no fault of your own - a defendant. Whatever your role, you'd expect a fair trial. I'm a barrister. I work in the criminal justice system, and every day I see how fairness is not guaranteed. Too often the system fails those it is meant to protect. The innocent are wronged and the guilty allowed to walk free. In *The Secret Stories of the Law and How It's Broken* I want to share some stories from my daily life to show you how the system is broken, who broke it and why we should start caring before it's too late.

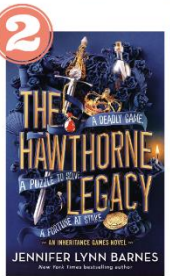
A Little History of Archaeology by Brian Fagan

What is archaeology? The word may bring to mind images of golden pharaohs and lost civilizations, or Neanderthal skulls and Ice Age cave art. Archaeology is all of these, but also far more: the only science to encompass the entire span of human history—more than three million years! This *Little History* tells the riveting stories of some of the great archaeologists and their amazing discoveries around the globe: ancient Egyptian tombs, Mayan ruins, the first colonial settlements at Jamestown, mysterious Stonehenge, the incredibly preserved Pompeii, and many, many more. In forty brief, exciting chapters, the book recounts archaeology's development from its eighteenth-century origins to its twenty-first-century technological advances. Shining light on the most intriguing events in the history of the field, this absolutely up-to-date book illuminates archaeology's controversies, discoveries, heroes and scoundrels, global sites, and newest methods for curious readers of every age.

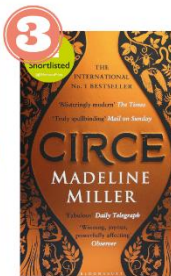
May's MOST POPULAR BOOKS



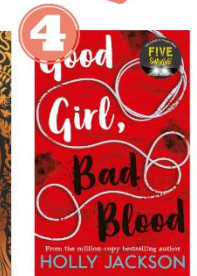
1 *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* by Holly Jackson



2 *The Hawthorne Legacy* by Jennifer Lynn Barnes



3 *Circe* by Madeline Miller



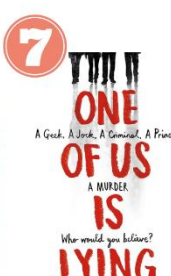
4 *Good Girl, Bad Blood* by Holly Jackson



5 *The Summer I Turned Pretty* by Jenny Han



6 *Blue Period Vol 1* by Tsubasa Yamaguchi



7 *One of Us is Lying* by Karen M. McManus



8 *Good Omens* by Terry Pratchett & Neil Gaiman

STAR BORROWERS OF THE MONTH

Each month we highlight star borrowers: students that have borrowed 5 or more books within that month. These students will receive an achievement point.

Year 7

Hashikha 7N
Hayley 7N
Yu-Xi 7W
Rithu 7W
Jasmine 7W
Avisha 7W
Deetya 7W
Miruthviga 7W
Shravaya 7W
Jiya 7W
Wenjun 7W

Year 8

Bade 7S
Elana 7S
Kayley 7S
Aanya 7S
Aditi 7S
Aadya 7F
Rosie 7G
Letty 7G
Saaya 7G
Nyra 7P
Greta 7P
Saatvika 7P
Rowan 7P

Year 9

Iris 8N
Neev 8N
Florence 1 8N
Khushi 8N
Riya 8W
Simran 8W
Nidhi 8W
Nilacia 8S
Srinidhi 8S
April 8F
Tripti 8F

Year 10

Dia 8F
Aniela 8G
Rebecca 8P
Elizabeth 8P
Naomi H 8P

Year 9

Maya 9N
Ipin 9N
Farrah 9W
Charlotte 9S
Angel 9S
Aamna 9S
Senumi 9S
Imaan 9F
Avni 9F

Year 10

Aisha 9F
Shreya 9F
Dhiviyaa 9G
Leony 9P
Taara 9P

Year 12

Paula 12S
Daria 12F
Sorena 12P
Vyshally 12P
Fleta 12Q



LGBTQIA+ Pride Month

Pride Month, sometimes specified as LGBTQ Pride Month, is a 'month-long observance dedicated to the celebration of LGBTQ pride, commemorating the contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) culture and community.' The first Pride Month was observed in June 1970 in the United States, a year after the [Stonewall Riots](#), in commemoration of the event, and as a further push for liberation. In 1999, President Bill Clinton declared a presidential proclamation that June would be "Gay and Lesbian Pride Month", a definition which President Barack Obama expanded in 2011 to include the whole of the LGBTQIA+ community. Since its genesis, Pride Month has been adopted by countries around the world, including the UK, Spain, Germany, France, Japan, Australia, and South Africa. Pride Month is celebrated in numerous ways, with the most visible being large city parades, concerts, and marches. Lee Craig Schoonmaker, a late activist and early advocate for LGBTQIA+ rights, said of Pride Month: "A lot of people were very repressed, they were conflicted internally, and didn't know how to come out and be proud. That's how the movement was most useful, because they thought, 'Maybe I should be proud.'" You can find out more about Pride in the UK [here](#).

Proud: Stories, Poetry, and Art on the Theme of Pride compiled by Juno Dawson

A stirring, bold and moving anthology of stories and poetry by top LGBTQ+ YA authors and new talent, giving their unique responses to the broad theme of pride. Each story has an illustration by an artist identifying as part of the LGBTQ+ community.



The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House by Audre Lorde

Presenting the essential writings of black lesbian poet and feminist writer Audre Lorde. In this charged collection of fifteen essays and speeches, Lorde takes on sexism, racism, ageism, homophobia, and class, and propounds social difference as a vehicle for action and change. Her prose is incisive, unflinching, and lyrical, reflecting struggle but ultimately offering messages of hope. This commemorative edition includes a new foreword by Lorde scholar and poet Cheryl Clarke, who celebrates the ways in which Lorde's philosophies resonate more than twenty years after they were first published.

Giovanni's Room by James Baldwin

Set in the contemporary Paris of American expatriates, liaisons, and violence, a young man finds himself caught between desire and conventional morality. James Baldwin's brilliant narrative delves into the mystery of loving with a sharp, probing imagination, and he creates a moving, highly controversial story of death and passion that reveals the unspoken complexities of the heart.



Orlando by Virginia Woolf

First masculine, then feminine, Orlando begins life as a young sixteenth-century nobleman, then gallops through the centuries to end up as a woman writer in Virginia Woolf's own time. Written for the charismatic, bisexual writer Vita Sackville-West, this playful mock biography of a chameleon-like historical figure is both a wry commentary on gender and, in Woolf's own words, a 'writer's holiday' which delights in its ambiguity and capriciousness.



The Well of Loneliness by Radclyffe Hall

Stephen is an ideal child of aristocratic parents—a fencer, a horse rider and a keen scholar. Stephen grows to be a war hero, a bestselling writer and a loyal, protective lover. But Stephen is a woman, and her lovers are women. As her ambitions drive her, and society confines her, Stephen is forced into desperate actions. *The Well of Loneliness* was banned for obscenity when published in 1928. It became an international bestseller, and for decades was the single most famous lesbian novel. It has influenced how love between women is understood, for the twentieth century and beyond.



Can Everyone Please Calm Down?: A Guide to 21st Century Sexuality by Mae Martin

Why do we find sexuality so, well ... scary? Comedian and co-creator of the hit show *Feel Good*, Mae Martin, investigates in this hilarious and intelligent guide to 21st century sexuality. By narrating their own, often humiliating, adventures in sex, dating and identity, Mae demystifies everything from weird crushes and coming out, to the pros and cons of labels and the joys of sexual fluidity. Mae's mission is to ensure that in a world that's full of things to worry about, who we choose to kiss should not be one of them. And when it comes to sexuality, CAN EVERYONE PLEASE CALM DOWN?



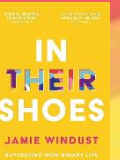
All Boys Aren't Blue by George M Johnson
(Recommended for Older Readers)

In a series of personal essays, prominent journalist and LGBTQIA+ activist George M. Johnson explores his childhood, adolescence, and college years in New Jersey and Virginia. From the memories of getting his teeth kicked out by bullies at age five, to flea marketing with his loving grandmother, to his first sexual relationships, this young-adult memoir weaves together the trials and triumphs faced by Black queer boys. Both a primer for teens eager to be allies as well as a reassuring testimony for young queer men of colour, *All Boys Aren't Blue* covers topics such as gender identity, toxic masculinity, brotherhood, family, structural marginalization, consent, and Black joy. Johnson's emotionally frank style of writing will appeal directly to young adults.



In Their Shoes: Navigating Non-Binary Life by Jamie Windust

There is no one way to be non-binary, and that's truthfully one of the best things about it. It's an identity that is yours to shape. Combining light-hearted anecdotes with their own hard-won wisdom, Jamie Windust explores everything from fashion, dating, relationships and family, through to mental health, work and future key debates. From trying on clothes in secret to iconic looks, first dates to polyamorous liaisons, passports to pronouns, Jamie shows you how to navigate the world and your evolving identity in every type of situation.



Author Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o Remembered



Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o was a Kenyan writer and thinker, known for his powerful novels, plays, and essays about African culture, politics, and identity. He was born in 1938 in Limuru, Kenya, during British colonial rule and his early life was shaped by the Mau Mau Uprising, a movement against British control in Kenya. Ngũgĩ studied at Makerere University in Uganda and later at the University of Leeds in England. At first, he wrote in English and became well known for works such as *A Grain of Wheat* and *The River Between*. Later, he chose to write only in his native language, Gikuyu, with the aim of supporting African languages and rejecting colonial influence. Ngũgĩ's Fanonist Marxist views were condemned by the dictatorial Kenyan government, and in 1977, after one of his plays criticized the ruling party, he was jailed without trial. Even in prison, Ngũgĩ continued to write, famously composing a novel on toilet paper. He was released in 1978 but was forced into exile that same year, resulting in his emigration to the United States with his family, where he and continued to write and speak out about justice, language, and African independence. Ngũgĩ and his family were only able to return to Kenya in 2022, following the retirement of President Daniel Arap Moi.

Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o passed away on Wednesday 28th of May 2025, at the age of 87. His cause of death has not been announced but it is known that the author had a triple heart bypass in 2019 and began to struggle with kidney failure around the same time. His daughter Wanjiku wa Ngũgĩ wrote in a Facebook post on the day of her father's death, "It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of our dad... He lived a full life, fought a good fight. As was his last wish, let's celebrate his life and his work."

Throughout his lifetime, Ngũgĩ was tipped to win the Nobel Prize for Literature numerous times; ultimately, he was never successful, but he did win a plethora of well-respected literature prizes, and was nominated for many more. 'Ngũgĩ will be remembered not only as a Nobel-worthy writer, but also as a fierce proponent of literature written in native African languages.' Click [here](#) to read the original BBC article by Wedaeli Chibelushi.

A Grain of Wheat by Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o
(Recommended for Older Readers)

A masterly story of myth, rebellion, love, friendship and betrayal from one of Africa's great writers, Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o's *A Grain of Wheat* includes an introduction by Abdulrazak Gurnah, author of *By the Sea*, in Penguin Modern Classics. It is 1963 and Kenya is on the verge of Uhuru - Independence Day. The mighty British government has been toppled, and in the lull between the fighting and the new world, colonized and colonizer alike reflect on what they have gained and lost. In the village of Thabai, the men and women who live there have been transformed irrevocably by the uprising. Kihika, legendary rebel leader, was fatally betrayed to the whiteman. Gikonyo's marriage to the beautiful Mumbi was destroyed when he was imprisoned, while her life has been shattered in other ways. And Mugo, brave survivor of the camps and now a village hero, harbours a terrible secret. As events unfold, compromises are forced, friendships are betrayed, and loves are tested.

