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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](mailto:orpington.library@gll.org)

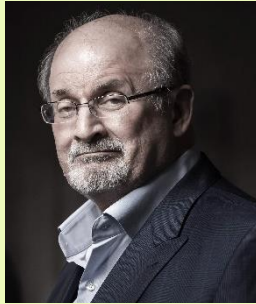
Meetings are once a month on a Monday from 5:30-6:30pm, during term time, for ages 11-14 years

We look forward to seeing you!



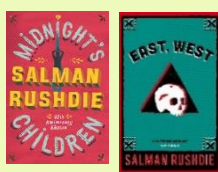
## On This Day in History... The Birth of Salman Rushdie, 19<sup>th</sup> June 1947

Salman Rushdie is a British Indian author best known for writing novels that mix history, fantasy, and political themes. He was born in 1947 in Bombay, now Mumbai, India. His father was a businessman educated at the University of Cambridge, and Rushdie followed a similar path, studying history at King's College, Cambridge. Rushdie initially worked in advertising but always aspired to be a writer. His second novel, *Midnight's Children* was a huge success, winning major awards such as the 1981 Booker Prize. Upon the publication of Rushdie's most controversial book *The Satanic Verses* in 1988, Iran's leader at the time declared the book blasphemous to the Muslim faith and issued a fatwa - a religious order calling for Rushdie's death. As a result, Rushdie was forced into hiding for nearly a decade, and required an armed bodyguard due to the number of death threats he received. Despite his circumstances, Rushdie continued to write and has published 23 books over the course of his career including fiction, nonfiction, and children's fiction titles. In 2022, tragedy struck when Rushdie was stabbed multiple times by an assailant as he ascended a stage to give a speech in New York. Rushdie was gravely wounded and hospitalised, ultimately losing the sight in one of his eyes and the use of one of his hands. Last year, he published a memoir called *Knife* which recounts his survival and recovery, and 'the triumph of light over darkness.'



### *Midnight's Children* by Salman Rushdie

Born at the stroke of midnight at the exact moment of India's independence, Saleem Sinai is a special child. However, this coincidence of birth has consequences he is not prepared for: telepathic powers connect him with 1,000 other 'midnight's children' all of whom are endowed with unusual gifts. Inextricably linked to his nation, Saleem's story is a whirlwind of disasters and triumphs that mirrors the course of modern India at its most impossible and glorious.



### *East, West* by Salman Rushdie

This dazzling collection of short stories explores the allure and confusion of what happens when East meets West. Fantasy and realism collide as a rickshaw driver writes letters home describing his film star career in Bombay; a mispronunciation leads to romance and an unusual courtship in sixties London; two childhood friends turned diplomats live out fantasies hatched by *Star Trek*; and Christopher Columbus dreams of consummating his relationship with Queen Isabella. With one foot in the East and one foot in the West, this collection reveals the oceanic distances and the unexpected intimacies between the two.



### *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* by Salman Rushdie

Haroun's father is the greatest of all story tellers. His magical stories bring laughter to the sad city of Alifbay. But one day something goes wrong, and his father runs out of stories to tell. Haroun is determined to return the storyteller's gift to his father. So, he flies off on the back of the Hoopie bird to the Sea of Stories - and a fantastic adventure begins.

*"Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves."* – J.M. Barrie

NEW

### *A Twisted Tale: Sally's Lament* by Mari Mancusi

What if Sally discovered Christmas Town instead of Jack? Sally has mostly loved her life in Halloween Town, but she can't help wanting something more. Sally is surprised to learn that the Pumpkin King, Jack, is longing for a change of his own. Determined to find a solution for them both, Sally follows a vision that could change their fates. But the more time Sally spends in the jolly land of Christmas Town, the more suspicious she grows of the seemingly idyllic winter wonderland. Will Sally be able to save the best of both towns... before it's too late?



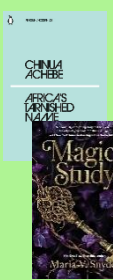
### *Mickey 7* by Edward Ashton (Recommended for Older Readers)

Dying isn't any fun...but at least it's a living. Mickey 7 is an Expendable: a disposable employee on a human expedition sent to colonize the ice world Niflheim. Whenever there's a mission that's too dangerous—even suicidal—the crew turns to Mickey. After one iteration dies, a new body is regenerated with most of his memories intact. Mickey signed on to escape from both bad debts and boredom on Midgard. After six deaths, Mickey 7 understands the terms of his deal...and why it was the only colonial position unfilled when he took it. When he goes missing and is presumed dead at the hands of deadly indigenous creatures, Mickey 8 reports for duty, and their troubles really begin.



### *Africa's Tarnished Name* by Chinua Achebe

He needed to hear Africa speak for itself after a lifetime of hearing Africa spoken about by others. Electrifying essays on the history, complexity, diversity of a continent, from the father of modern African literature.



### *The Chronicles of Ixia #2: Magic Study* by Maria V Snyder

After the discovery of her magical abilities leads to an execution order, Yelena has no choice but to flee to Sitia, her long-lost birthplace. There, she has the chance to meet the family she never knew. But Sitia is unfamiliar, and she's treated with suspicion and even hatred by the people she thought she could trust—including her own brother. Then Yelena is given the chance to travel to Sitia's capital. In the Citadel, she'll have the chance to hone her magical abilities under the tutelage of master magicians. As she learns the laws of magic—Yelena also discovers those who will do anything to break them. And when a rogue magician who targets young female victims emerges, Yelena must put her life at risk to stop him. Will her newfound magic save Yelena—or will it be her downfall?



### *House of Hunger* by Alexis Henderson (Recommended for Older Readers)

Marion Shaw has been raised in the slums, where want and deprivation are all she knows. Despite longing to leave the city and its miseries, she has no real hope of escape until the day she spots a strange advertisement in the newspaper, seeking a 'bloodmaid'. Though she knows little about the far north—where wealthy nobles live in luxury and drink the blood of those in their service—Marion applies to the position. In a matter of days, she finds herself at the notorious House of Hunger. There, Marion is swept into a world of dark debauchery—and there, at the centre of it all is her. Her name is Countess Lisavet. Loved and feared in equal measure, she presides over this hedonistic court. And she takes a special interest in Marion. Lisavet is magnetic, charismatic, seductive—and Marion is eager to please her new mistress. But when her fellow bloodmaids begin to go missing in the night, Marion is thrust into a vicious game of cat and mouse. She'll need to learn the rules of her new home—and fast—or its halls will soon become her grave.

### *Demon Slayer: Volume 8* by Koyoharu Gotouge

After battling several demon enemies aboard the Infinity Train, Tanjiro, Zenitsu, and Inosuke must confront the train's demon spirit! Even though they can stop the demon train, Muzan Kibutsuji's minions are still there, and Tanjiro must continue to improve his strength and skills. Learning the secret of Hikonami Kagura and Flame Breathing will give him a powerful new advantage.



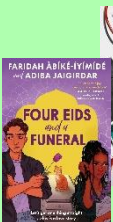
### *The Complete Verse of Noël Coward* by Noël Coward

The Complete Verse of Noël Coward brings together the three volumes of verse produced during his lifetime, together with previously unpublished material for the very first time. For the legions of fans of The Master, this definitive collection of Coward's verse writings will prove irresistible. Beginning with his youthful verse experiments, The Complete Verse arranges in themed chapters Coward's prolific public and personal verse writings. Chapters bring together his verse on a wide variety of subjects including war, the theatre, love, friends, travel, and God and the infinite. It features the satirical 'cod-pieces'—Chelsea Buns and Spangled Unicorn—and the verse collected in the 1967 volume Not Yet the Dodo. But alongside these are the verses sent to friends and family over many years, in letters, memos and cables, which paint a vivid portrait of his more private life and are published here for the first time.



## YA Book Awards Shortlist

The 10-book shortlist for the 2025 YA Book Prize was announced earlier this week. Launched in 2014, the YA (Young Adult) Book Prize 'celebrates great fiction for teenagers and young adults, and aims to get more teens reading and buying books.' Books in the young adult category are typically written for young people aged 12-18. The term was first used in reference to literature in the 1940s when teenagers were recognised as a distinct group of people in society for the first time. The YA Book Prize is organised by book trade magazine *The Bookseller* and is run in partnership with Edinburgh International Book Festival. Below you can find the shortlisted books that we have in library stock. Click [here](#) to view the full shortlist.



### *The Reappearance of Rachel Price* by Holly Jackson

18-year-old Bel has lived her whole life in the shadow of her mom's mysterious disappearance. Sixteen years ago, Rachel Price vanished, and young Bel was the only witness. Rachel is gone, presumed dead. The case is dragged up from the past when the Price family agree to a true crime documentary. Bel can't wait for filming to end, for life to go back to normal. But then Rachel Price reappears, and life will never be normal again...

### *Four Eids and a Funeral* by Faridah Abiké-Iyimidé and Adiba Jaigirdar

Let's get one thing straight: this is a love story. Said Hassan hates Tiwa Olatunji. And Tiwa would happily never see Said again in her life. Growing up, the two were inseparable, but they have barely spoken since the incident many Eids ago and both of them would like to keep it that way. But when Said comes home for a funeral and the town's Islamic Centre burns down on the same day, they have to face each other again and sparks fly. Both of them want to see the Islamic Centre rebuilt. For Tiwa, it represents the community that she loves and a way to keep her fractured family together. For Said, it's an opportunity to build his portfolio for his secret application to art school, where he hopes that he'll be able to pursue his dreams of becoming an artist, rather than a doctor. Working with your sworn enemy is never easy, and this could be the hardest thing that Said and Tiwa have ever done. But in trying to save the Islamic Centre and Eid, could these enemies become something else...?



### *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* by Toshikazu Kawaguchi

In a small back alley in Tokyo, there is a café which has been serving carefully brewed coffee for more than one hundred years. But this coffee shop offers its customers a unique experience: the chance to travel back in time. In *Before the Coffee Gets Cold*, we meet four visitors, each of whom is hoping to make use of the café's time-travelling offer, in order to: confront the man who left them, receive a letter from their husband whose memory has been taken by early onset Alzheimer's, to see their sister one last time, and to meet the daughter they never got the chance to know. But the journey into the past does not come without risks: customers must sit in a particular seat, they cannot leave the café, and finally, they must return to the present before the coffee gets cold...



### *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt

After Tova Sullivan's husband died, she began working the night cleaner shift at the Sowell Bay Aquarium. Ever since her eighteen-year-old son, Erik, mysteriously vanished on a boat over thirty years ago keeping busy has helped her cope. One night she meets Marcellus, a giant Pacific octopus living at the aquarium who sees everything, but wouldn't dream of lifting one of his eight arms for his human captors—until he forms a remarkable friendship with Tova. And the detective, Marcellus deduces what happened the night Tova's son disappeared. And now Marcellus must use every trick his old body can muster to unearth the truth for her before it's too late...

### *Glasgow Boys* by Margaret McDonald (Recommended for Older Readers)

Neither 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. Underpinning everything is what happened three years ago in their group care home, when Finlay and Banjo were as close as brothers until they stopped speaking. If these boys want to keep hold of the people they love, they have to be able to forgive one another. More than this, they must find a way to forgive themselves.



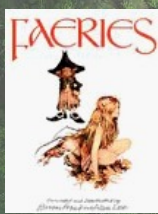
## International Fairy Day - 24<sup>th</sup> June

The 24<sup>th</sup> of June is designated International Fairy Day in celebration of the mythological creatures that have captured the imagination of countless people around the world for centuries. The word fairy has many different definitions, but is generally defined as 'an anthropomorphic creature with metaphysical, supernatural, or preternatural qualities.' There is no one agreed upon origin for the myth, instead stories of fairies stem from a collection of independent global folk beliefs and theories. The fairy became popular as a motif in the United Kingdom during the Victorian and Edwardian eras, when it was a common feature in art and literature. Throughout history, fairies have been portrayed variously as pagan deities such as nymphs or tree spirits, demons, spirits of the dead, elemental spirits, and members of a prehistoric race of humanoid peoples. Most commonly, fairies have been depicted as small anthropomorphic creatures with wings and magic wands, as exemplified by the character of Tinkerbell in Disney's *Peter Pan*.

In the modern era, fairies are often referred to as 'fae'—a term with ancient origins—and frequently feature as protagonists of the fantasy genre, and more specifically as love interests in a new subgenre dubbed 'romantasy'. Romantasy has been acknowledged as a subgenre in recent years, and is defined as a romance/fantasy blend where romance and fantasy elements have an equal presence. The works of Sarah J Maas and Victoria Aveyard have contributed strongly to the idea of faefolk as romantic leads in literature, and thus the public's ongoing interest in the popular myth seems unlikely to fade any time soon.

### *Faeries* by Brian Froud and David Larkin

A flight of fancy for readers of all ages, this book explores a whole new world charged with the wild beauty of creatures who do not live by human rules. Theirs is a realm of wonder, joy and enchanted danger. The two artists who created this book, Alan Lee and Brian Froud, have studied faerie history, myths, legends and folklore, and embodied their findings in 185 paintings and drawings. All the faerie types are identified and pictured—water faeries, elves, gnomes, pixies, leprechauns, tree faeries, dryads and more. Information on their favourite haunts, pastimes and ways of life are drawn from Celtic stories, oral tradition and from writers and poets. Among these sources are "The Ballad of Thomas the Rhymer", the great poet W.B. Yeats' "The Song of Wandering Aengus", and Christina Rossetti's poem "Goblin Market". Folk stories are traced to their origins, retold and illustrated.



### *Tress of the Emerald Sea* by Brandon Sanderson

The only life Tress has known on her island home in an emerald-green ocean has been a simple one, with the simple pleasures of collecting cups brought by sailors from faraway lands and listening to stories told by her friend Charlie. But when his father takes him on a voyage to find a bride and disaster strikes, Tress must stow away on a ship and seek the Sorceress of the deadly Midnight Sea. Amid the spore oceans where pirates abound, can Tress leave her simple life behind and make her own place sailing a sea where a single drop of water can mean instant death?



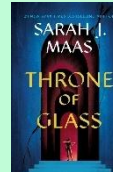
### *Powerless #1: Powerless* by Lauren Roberts

Only the extraordinary belong in the kingdom of Ilya. The exceptional. The Elites. The Elites have possessed powers for decades, gifted to them by the Plague, while those born Ordinary are just that, banished from the kingdom and shunned from society. No one knows this better than Paedyn Gray, an Ordinary posing as an Elite. When she unsuspectingly saves one of Ilya's princes, Kai Azer, she's thrown into the Purging Trials, a brutal competition to showcase her 'Elite' powers. If the Trials and the opponents don't kill her, the prince she's fighting feelings for will if he discovers what Paedyn really is... completely Ordinary.



### *Throne of Glass #1: Throne of Glass* by Sarah J Maas

In a land without magic, where the king rules with an iron hand, an assassin is summoned to the castle. She comes not to kill the king, but to win her freedom. If she defeats twenty-three killers, thieves, and warriors in a competition, she is released from prison to serve as the king's champion. Her name is Celaena Sardothien. The Crown Prince will provoke her. The Captain of the Guard will protect her. But something evil dwells in the castle of glass—and it's there to kill. When her competitors start dying one by one, Celaena's fight for freedom becomes a fight for survival, and a desperate quest to root out the evil before it destroys her world.



### *The Body Keeps the Score: Brain, Mind, and Body in the Healing of Trauma* by Bessel van der Kolk

Dr. Bessel van der Kolk, one of the world's foremost experts on trauma, has spent over three decades working with survivors. In *The Body Keeps the Score*, he uses recent scientific advances to show how trauma literally reshapes both body and brain, compromising sufferers' capacities for pleasure, engagement, self-control, and trust. He explores innovative treatments—from neurofeedback and meditation to sports, drama, and yoga—that offer new paths to recovery by activating the brain's natural neuroplasticity. Based on Dr. van der Kolk's own research and that of other leading specialists, *The Body Keeps the Score* exposes the tremendous power of our relationships both to hurt and to heal—and offers new hope for reclaiming lives.



### *The Radium Girls* by Kate Moore

As the First World War spread across the world, young American women flocked to work in factories, painting clocks, watches and military dials with a special luminous substance made from radium. It was a fun job, lucrative and glamorous—the girls shone brightly in the dark, covered head to toe in dust from the paint. However, as the years passed, the women began to suffer from mysterious and crippling illnesses. It turned out that the very thing that had made them feel alive—their work—was slowly killing them: the radium paint was poisonous. Their employers denied all responsibility, but these courageous women—in the face of unimaginable suffering—refused to accept their fate quietly, and instead became determined to fight for justice. Drawing on previously unpublished diaries, letters and interviews, *The Radium Girls* is an intimate narrative of an unforgettable true story. It is the powerful tale of a group of ordinary women from the Roaring Twenties, who themselves learned how to roar.

