



SPRING

“You can cut all the flowers but you cannot keep Spring from coming.” – Pablo Neruda

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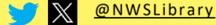
Happy reading! – Miss Mullins, Miss Walker, and Miss Henry



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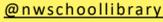
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Orpington Library's Younger Teens Reading Group

Do you enjoy reading?
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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

The Lamb by Lucy Rose

(Recommended for older readers)

Margot and Mama have lived by the forest since Margot can remember. When Margot isn't at school, they spend quiet days together in their cottage, waiting for strangers to knock on their door. Strays, Mama calls them. Mama loves the strays. She feeds them wine, keeps them warm. Then she satisfies her burning appetite by picking apart their bodies. But Mama's want is stronger than her hunger sometimes, and when a white-toothed stray named Eden turns up in the heart of a snowstorm, little Margot must confront the shifting dynamics of her family, untangle her own desires and make a bid for freedom.



Mastering Twentieth-Century Russian History by Norman Lowe

Mastering Twentieth Century Russian History presents a vivid and informative account of the events which befell the Russian people during the twentieth century. This text is the ideal companion for anyone seeking a clear yet detailed introduction to the fascinating events of twentieth century Russian history.

Biological Rhythms, Sleep and Hypnosis by Simon Green

Like food and water, sleep is essential for all. In this excellent study aid, the authors look at the nature and purpose of sleeping and related disorders, dreaming and hypnosis. This clear and focused introduction provides a fantastic entry point for students seeking a deeper understanding of altered states of awareness.



Blue Flag Vol. 1 by Kaito

An unexpected love quadrangle with a dash of unrequited love as two classmates, a boy and a girl, begin to fall for each other when each of their best friends have already fallen for them. Love is already hard enough, but it becomes an un navigable maze for unassuming high school student Taichi Ichinose and his shy classmate Futaba Kuze when they begin to fall for each other after their same-sex best friends have already fallen for them.

Days at the Torunka Café by Satoshi Yagisawa

Tucked away on a narrow side street in Tokyo is the Torunka Café, a neighbourhood nook where the passersby are as likely to be local cats as tourists. Its regulars include Chinatsu Yukimura, a mysterious young woman who always leaves behind a napkin folded into the shape of a ballerina; Hiroyuki Yumata, a middle-aged man who's returned to the neighbourhood searching for the happy life he once gave up; and Shizuku, the café owner's teenage daughter, who is still coming to terms with her sister's death as she falls in love for the first time.



Girl Online by Zoe Sugg

Under the alias Girl Online, Penny blogs her hidden feelings about friendship, boys, high school drama, her crazy family, and the panic attacks that have begun to take over her life. When things go from bad to worse, her family whisks her away to New York, where she meets Noah, a gorgeous, guitar-strumming American. Suddenly Penny is falling in love - and capturing every moment of it on her blog.

Alone on a Wide Wide Sea by Michael Morpurgo

When six-year-old orphan Arthur Hobhouse is shipped to Australia after WWII he loses his sister, his country and everything he knows. Overcoming enormous hardships with fellow orphan Marty, Arthur is finally saved by the extraordinary people he meets and by his talent for boat-design and sailing. Now he has built a special boat for his daughter Allie – a solo yacht designed to carry her to England in search of his long-lost sister. Will the threads of Arthur's life finally come together?

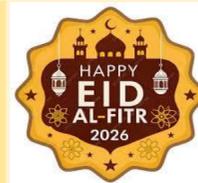


The Cruel Prince by Holly Black

Jude was seven when her parents were murdered and she and her two sisters were stolen away to live in the treacherous High Court of Faerie. Ten years later, Jude wants nothing more than to belong there, despite her mortality. But many of the fey despise humans. Especially Prince Cardan, the youngest and wickedest son of the High King. To win a place at the Court, she must defy him—and face the consequences.

20th March is Eid-al-Fitr, 2026

Eid-al-Fitr is a major Muslim festival that usually falls on March 20, depending on the lunar calendar. It marks the end of Ramadan, a month when Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset, reflecting on self-discipline, patience, and empathy for the less fortunate. Because of this, Eid al-Fitr is also called the "Festival of Breaking Fast." The celebration brings family and friends together, with people wearing new clothes, exchanging greetings, and visiting loved ones. Gifts are also given, such as 'Eid' in South Asian countries like Pakistan and India, where elders give money to children. Special foods and sweets, including dishes like 'sheer khurma' and 'sawaiyan' are prepared to mark the festive occasion. Eid also involves charity, as Muslims pay Zakat and Fitrana to help the poor and correct accidental mistakes during fasting. Traditions vary across the world: in the Middle East, Muslims gather in large open areas called Eid-gah for morning prayers, while in Malaysia, Pakistan, and other countries, families focus on social visits and feasts. Eid al-Fitr is not only a celebration of the end of fasting but also a time to express gratitude, enjoy communal gatherings, strengthen bonds, and appreciate food, life, and generosity. To find out more, [click here](#).



Four Eids and a Funeral by Faridah Abike-Iyemide

Said Hassain 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.



Once Upon an Eid: Stories of Hope and Joy by 15 Muslim Voices by Aisha Saeed

Eid! The short, single syllable word conjures up a variety of feelings and memories for Muslims. Maybe it's waking up to the sound of frying samosas or the comfort of bean pie, maybe it's the pleasure of putting on a new outfit for Eid prayers, or maybe it's the gift giving and the holiday parties, or carnival rides to come that day. Whatever it may be, for those who cherish this day of celebration, the emotional responses may be summed up in another short and sweet word: joy.



On This Day... Oyinkan Braithwaite was born 21st March 1988

Oyinkan Braithwaite (born 1988) is a Nigerian-British writer best known for her debut novel My Sister, the Serial Killer. She was born in Lagos and spent much of her childhood moving between Nigeria and the United Kingdom. Her family later moved to Southgate, where she attended primary school, before returning to Lagos in 2001 when her younger brother was born. Braithwaite later studied law and creative writing at University of Surrey and Kingston University, developing her interest in writing before moving back to Lagos in 2012. Before becoming widely known as a novelist, she worked in the publishing and media industries, including as an assistant editor at Kachifo Limited and as a production manager at Ajapa World. In 2018, she published My Sister, the Serial Killer through Doubleday, and the novel received widespread praise from critics and readers. In addition to writing novels, Braithwaite has published short stories in magazines and collections such as McSweeney's and Amazon's Hush Collection. She is also an illustrator and even



designed the cover for the Nigerian edition of her own novel, showing her creative skills beyond writing. In 2025 she released another novel, Cursed Daughters, which she described as very different from the thriller style of her first book, as she wanted to explore a new direction in her storytelling. Overall, Braithwaite is known as a talented modern writer who combines her experiences in Nigeria and the UK to create unique and engaging stories. To find out more about Oyinkan and her ventures, [click here](#).

My Sister, The Serial Killer by Oyinkan Braithwaite

When Korede's dinner is interrupted one night by a distress call from her sister, Ayoola, she knows what's expected of her: bleach, rubber gloves, nerves of steel and a strong stomach. This'll be the third boyfriend Ayoola's dispatched in, quote, self-defence and the third mess that her lethal little sibling has left Korede to clear away. She should probably go to the police for the good of the menfolk of Nigeria, but she loves her sister and, as they say, family always comes first. Until, that is, Ayoola starts dating the doctor where Korede works as a nurse. Korede's long been in love with him, and isn't prepared to see him wind up with a knife in his back: but to save one would mean sacrificing the other...



On This Day... Henrik Ibsen was born 20th March 1828

Henrik Ibsen (1828–1906) was one of the most important playwrights of the 19th century and helped transform modern theatre by introducing realistic stories that examined moral and social problems in ordinary middle-class life. He was born in Skien, but his family fell into poverty after his father went bankrupt, which deeply affected his early life. At age 15 he moved to Grimstad, where he worked as an apothecary's apprentice while studying and writing in his spare time. His first play, Catiline, showed his early interest in drama and themes of rebellion. In his twenties he became a theatre director and playwright in Bergen and later in Oslo (then called Christiania), gaining valuable stage experience even though many of his early plays were not successful. After financial problems and disappointment with Norway's theatre scene, Ibsen left the country in 1864 and lived abroad for 27 years in places such as Rome, Dresden, and Munich. During this time, he wrote major works that



made him famous, including the poetic dramas Brand and Peer Gynt. His international breakthrough came with the realistic play A Doll's House, which shocked audiences because its heroine leaves her husband and children to discover her independence, challenging traditional ideas about marriage and women's roles. Other controversial plays such as Ghosts and An Enemy of the People explored hidden family secrets, social hypocrisy, and the conflict between truth and public opinion. Later works like The Wild Duck and Hedda Gabler continued to examine complex human psychology and moral struggles. Ibsen returned to Norway in 1891 and continued writing until strokes left him ill near the end of his life; he died in Oslo in 1906. Today he is widely considered one of the founders of modern drama because his plays forced audiences to question social values, personal honesty, and the hidden truths within everyday life. To find out more, [click here](#).

Seven Famous Plays by Henrik Ibsen

The new Penguin series of Ibsen's major plays offer the best available editions in English, under the general editorship of Tore Rem. The plays have been freshly translated by the best modern translators and are based on the recently published, definitive Norwegian edition of Ibsen's works. They all include new introductions and editorial apparatus by leading scholars.

A Doll's House by Henrik Ibsen

(Norwegian: Et dukkehjem; also translated as A Doll House) is a three-act play in prose by Henrik Ibsen. It premiered at the Royal Theatre in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 21 December 1879, having been published earlier that month. The play is significant for its critical attitude toward 19th century marriage norms. It aroused great controversy at the time, as it concludes with the protagonist, Nora, leaving her husband and children because she wants to discover herself.

The Connell Short Guide to Henrik Ibsen's A Doll House by Kirsten Shepherd-Barr
All you need to know about Henrik Ibsen's A Doll's House is in this advanced guide to the text. Connell Guides are advanced guide books that offer sophisticated analysis and broad critical perspectives for higher-level GCSE and A Level English Literature students. Written by leading academics, Connell Guides are clear.



16th March is Freedom of Information Day

Freedom of Information Day is celebrated every year on March 16 to honour the birthday of James Madison, who is known as the "Father of the Constitution." The day highlights the importance of transparency in government and reminds citizens that they have the right to access information about how their government operates. This right is supported by the Freedom of Information Act, which was passed in 1966 and allows individuals to request official government records and information, usually for free or with only a small fee. These records may include government decisions, research findings, or other information collected by authorities. The purpose of the law is to make governments more open and accountable so that citizens can understand how decisions are made and ensure their leaders act responsibly. The idea of freedom of



information has a long history, beginning with early laws such as the Freedom of the Press Act in Sweden and later spreading to countries like France, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. Similar ideas exist in the United Kingdom through the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which gives the public the legal right to request information from public authorities such as government departments, local councils, schools, and the National Health Service. This law, which came into force in 2005, helps ensure that the UK government remain accountable and transparent by allowing citizens, journalists, and researchers to ask questions and access official records. Freedom of Information Day reminds people that access to reliable government information is an important part of democracy, helping citizens understand decisions, participate in society, and hold leaders responsible for their actions. For more information, [click here](#).

The American Revolution: A Very Short Introduction by Robert J. Allison

Here is a brisk, accessible, and vivid introduction to arguably the most important event in the history of the United States—the American Revolution. Sharply written and highly readable, The American A Very Short Introduction offers a concise introduction to this seminal event in American history.

Government and Politics in the United States by Nigel Bowes

This extensively revised new edition offers a broad-ranging, systematic and sophisticated introduction contemplating the institutions and processes of government in the US set in a clear historical context.

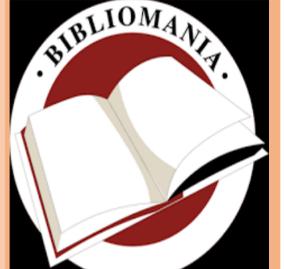
Contemporary America by Russell Duncan

This book is a broad-ranging and lively introduction to all aspects of life in America. This third edition takes account of the 2008 presidential elections and examines the state of the nation after George W. Bush.



20th March is Bibliomania Day

Bibliomania Day is celebrated every year on March 20 and is connected to the story of Stephen Blumberg, who stole more than 23,600 rare books from hundreds of libraries and museums before being caught in 1990. The day highlights the idea of bibliomania, a term meaning an extreme obsession with collecting or hoarding books. The word comes from Greek roots meaning "book" and "madness," and it was first used in 1734 by Thomas Hearne, later becoming more widely known after the 1809 book Bibliomania: or Book-Madness by Thomas Frognall Dibdin. Bibliomania is different from bibliophilic, which simply means loving books; instead, bibliomania describes a compulsive behaviour where someone collects large numbers of books and may become overly possessive or distressed about their collection. In some cases, this behaviour can affect a



person's social life or well-being. Although bibliomania is not officially recognised as a medical disorder by the American Psychiatric Association, it is still discussed as a psychological obsession. Bibliomania Day encourages people to think about the difference between healthy enjoyment of reading and excessive collecting, while also celebrating the positive role books play in education, creativity, and relationships. Many people mark the day by buying or sharing books, reading about book collecting, or giving books as gifts to encourage a love of reading. For more information, [click here](#).

Six of Crows #1 by Leigh Bardugo

Ketterdam: a bustling hub of international trade where anything can be had for the right price—and no one knows that better than criminal prodigy Kaz Brekker. Kaz is offered a chance at a deadly heist that could make him rich beyond his wildest dreams. But he can't pull it off alone... Six dangerous outcasts. One impossible heist. Kaz's crew is the only thing that might stand between the world and destruction—if they don't kill each other first.



A Million to One by Abida Jaidard

Adiba Jaidard, author of one of Time's Best YA books of all time, gives Titanic an Ocean's 8 makeover in this nail-biting heist set onboard the infamous ship. Perfect for fans of Stalking Jack the Ripper and Girl in the Blue Coat, this high-seas heist from the author of The Henna Wars is an immersive story that makes readers forget one important detail—the ship sinks.

