



AUTUMN TERM

If you would like to renew a book, or have any comments/ queries, please don't hesitate to contact me at library@newsteadwood.co.uk

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

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NEW

The Sun and the Star by Rick Riordan and Mark Oshiro
Nico di Angelo is pretty familiar with the realms of death, being the son of Hades and all. So when a desperate voice starts plaguing his dreams, Nico is convinced it's coming from the Underworld and belongs to an old friend - a reformed Titan called Bob. Then an ominous prophecy leaves Nico in no doubt - Bob needs his help and Nico must rescue him. Of course Nico's boyfriend, Will Solace, the son of Apollo (the god of light) insists on joining the quest too. But can will even survive in the darkest part of the world? And what does the prophecy mean when it says that Nico will have to leave something of equal value behind?



The Sad Ghost Club Volume 3: Find Your Kindred Spirits by Lize Meddings
When one sad ghost, alone at a crowded party, spies another sad ghost across the room, what happens next changes everything. Because that night, they leave the party and start the The Sad Ghost Club - a secret society for the anxious and alone, a club for people who think they don't belong. In Volume 3 of this graphic novel series, follow the Sad Ghost Club as they navigate the joys and complexities of opening up their community - and their hearts - to new members. A heart-warming series about friendship, compassion and finding your kindred spirits.



The House of Silk by Anthony Horowitz
London, 1890. 221B Baker St. A fine art dealer named Edmund Carstairs visits Sherlock Holmes and Dr John Watson to beg for their help. He is being menaced by a strange man in a flat cap - a wanted criminal who seems to have followed him all the way from America. In the days that follow, his home is robbed, his family is threatened. And then the first murder takes place. Almost unwillingly, Holmes and Watson find themselves being drawn ever deeper into an international conspiracy connected to the teeming criminal underworld of Boston, the gaslit streets of London, opium dens and much, much more. And as they dig, they begin to hear the whispered phrase-the House of Silk-a mysterious entity that connects the highest levels of government to the deepest depths of criminality. Holmes begins to fear that he has uncovered a conspiracy that threatens to tear apart the very fabric of society.



Mathematics for Human Flourishing by Francis Su
For mathematician Francis Su, a society without mathematical affection is like a city without concerts, parks, or museums. To miss out on mathematics is to live without experiencing some of humanity's most beautiful ideas. In this profound book, written for a wide audience but especially for those disenchanted by their past experiences, and award-winning mathematician and educator weaves parables, puzzles, and personal reflections to show how mathematics meets basic human desires - such as for play, beauty, freedom, justice, and love - and cultivates virtues essential for human flourishing. These desires and virtues, and the stories told here, reveal how mathematics is intimately tied to being human. Some lessons emerge from those who have struggled, including philosopher Simone Weil, whose own mathematical contributions were overshadowed by her brother's and Christopher Jackson, who discovered mathematics as an inmate in a federal prison. Christopher's letters to the author appear throughout the book and show how this intellectual pursuit can - and must - be open to all.

Medea by Euripides
One of the most powerful and enduring of Greek tragedies, Medea centers on the myth of Jason, leader of the Argonauts, who has won the dragon-guarded treasure of the Golden Fleece with the help of the sorceress Medea. Having married Medea and fathered her two children, Jason abandons her for a more favorable match, never suspecting the terrible revenge she will take. Euripides' masterly portrayal of the motives fiercely driving Medea's pursuit of vengeance for her husband's insult and betrayal has held theater audiences spellbound for more than twenty centuries. Rex Warner's authoritative translation brings this great classic of world literature vividly to life.

Introducing: Miss McGarr



Hello, my name's Miss McGarr - I'm one of the new librarians and I'll be in the library on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Some of my interests include: spending time with my son, reading autobiographies and murder mysteries, watching true crime documentaries, and going on day trips. I'm currently reading Death Sets Sail by Robin Stevens, which I'm really enjoying. I'm looking forward to meeting you all!



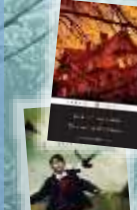
Death Sets Sail by Robin Stevens
Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong are in Egypt, where they are taking a cruise along the Nile. They are hoping to see some ancient temples and a mummy or two; what they get, instead, is murder. Also travelling on the SS Hatshepsut is a mysterious society called the Breath of Life: a group of genteel English ladies and gentlemen, who believe themselves to be reincarnations of the ancient pharaohs. Three days into the cruise their leader, Theodora Miller, is found dead in her cabin, stabbed during the night. It soon becomes clear to Daisy and Hazel that Theodora's timid daughter Hephzibah, who is prone to sleepwalking, is being framed. And within the society, everyone has a reason to want Theodora dead...

31st October - Halloween

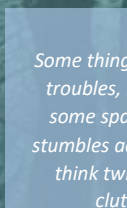
October is the perfect time of year to pick up a horror book - whether it be a classic like Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* or Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, or something a little more modern. In the library, we have plenty of horror books, ranging from slightly scary to skin-crawlingly spooky. Below are some suggestions for creepy stories to pick up and read over the half term. Please do make sure to check content warnings for any books you choose, as horror books tend to explore more uncomfortable/ disturbing topics than books in other genres. Content warnings can be found at the bottom of each book's [Storygraph](#) page.



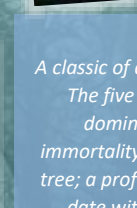
Frozen Charlotte by Alex Bell
We're waiting for you to come and play. Dunvegan School for Girls has been closed for many years. Converted into a family home, the teachers and students are long gone. But they left something behind... Sophie arrives at the old schoolhouse to spend the summer with her cousins. Brooding Cameron with his scarred hand, strange Lillas with a fear of bones and Piper, who seems just a bit too good to be true. And then there's her other cousin. The girl with a room full of antique dolls. The girl that shouldn't be there. The girl that died.



The Haunting of Hill House by Shirley Jackson
It is the story of four seekers who arrive at a notoriously unfriendly pile called Hill House: Dr. Montague, an occult scholar looking for solid evidence of a "haunting"; Theodora, the light-hearted assistant; Eleanor, a friendless, fragile young woman well acquainted with poltergeists; and Luke, the future heir of Hill House. At first, their stay seems destined to be merely a spooky encounter with inexplicable phenomena. But Hill House is gathering its powers—and soon it will choose one of them to make its own.



Bad Bones by Graham Marks
Some things are best left buried. Gabe is feeling the pressure. His family has many troubles, he's hardly talking to his dad, plus lowlife Benny is on his case. Needing some space to think, he heads off into the hills surrounding LA. And he suddenly stumbles across a secret that will change everything. A shallow grave. Gabe doesn't think twice about taking the gold bracelet he finds buried there. Even from the clutches of skeletal hands. But he has no idea what he's awakening...



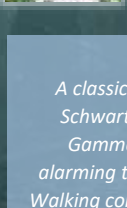
The Birds and Other Stories by Daphne du Maurier
A classic of alienation and horror, *The Birds* was immortalised by Hitchcock in his celebrated film. The five other chilling stories in this collection echo a sense of dislocation and mock man's dominance over the natural world. *The mountain paradise* of 'Monte Verita' promises immortality, but at a terrible price; a neglected wife haunts her husband in the form of an apple tree; a professional photographer steps out from behind the camera and into his subject's life; a date with a cinema usherette leads to a walk in the cemetery; and a jealous father finds a remedy when three's a crowd...



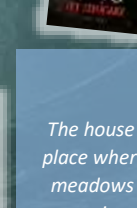
Coraline by Neil Gaiman
There is something strange about Coraline's new home. It's not the mist, or the cat that always seems to be watching her, nor the signs of danger that Miss Spink and Miss Forcible, her new neighbours, read in the tea leaves. It's the other house - the one behind the old door in the drawing room. Another mother and father with black-button eyes and papery skin are waiting for Coraline to join them there. And they want her to stay with them. For ever. She knows that if she ventures through that door, she may never come back.



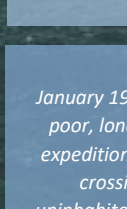
The Woman in Black by Susan Hill
Arthur Kipps, a junior solicitor, is summoned to attend the funeral of Mrs Alice Drablow, the sole inhabitant of Eel Marsh House. The house stands at the end of a causeway, wreathed in fog and mystery, but it is not until he glimpses a wasted young woman, dressed all in black, at the funeral, that a creeping sense of unease begins to take hold, a feeling deepened by the reluctance of the locals to talk of the woman in black - and her terrible purpose.



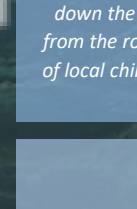
Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark by Alvin Schwartz
A classic collection of chillingly scary tales, collected and retold by Alvin Schwartz and featuring the original illustrations by lauded artist Steve Gammell. *Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark* contains some of the most alarming tales of horror, dark revenge, and supernatural events of all time. Walking corpses, dancing bones, and narrow escapes from death—they're all here in this chilling collection of ghost stories.



Pet Sematary by Stephen King
(Recommended for older readers)
The house looked right, felt right to Dr Louis Creed. Rambling, old, unsmart and comfortable. A place where the family could settle; the children grow and play and explore. The rolling hills and meadows of Maine seemed a world away from the fume-choked dangers of Chicago. Only the occasional big truck out on the two-lane highway, grinding up through the gears, hammering down the long gradients, growled out an intrusive threat. But behind the house and far away from the road: that was safe. Just a carefully cleared path up into the woods where generations of local children have processed with the solemn innocence of the young, taking with them their dear departed pets for burial.



Dark Matter: A Ghost Story by Michelle Paver
January 1937. Clouds of war are gathering over a fogbound London. Twenty-eight year old Jack is poor, lonely, and desperate to change his life, so when he's offered the chance to join an Arctic expedition, he jumps at it. Spirits are high as the ship leaves Norway: five men and eight huskies, crossing the Barents Sea by the light of the midnight sun. At last they reach the remote, uninhabited bay where they will camp for the next year, Gruhken, but the Arctic summer is brief. As night returns to claim the land, Jack feels a creeping unease. One by one, his companions are forced to leave. He faces a stark choice: stay or go. Soon he will see the last of the sun, as the polar night engulfs the camp in months of darkness. Soon he will reach the point of no return—when the sea will freeze, making escape impossible. Gruhken is not uninhabited. Jack is not alone. Something walks there in the dark...



The Only Good Indians by Stephen Graham Jones
(Recommended for older readers)
Seamlessly blending classic horror and a dramatic narrative with sharp social commentary, *The Only Good Indians* follows four American Indian men after a disturbing event from their youth puts them in a desperate struggle for their lives. Tracked by an entity bent on revenge, these childhood friends are helpless as the culture and traditions they left behind catch up to them in a violent, vengeful way.

24th - 31st October – Global Media and Information Literacy Week

Media and information literacy is defined as "the knowledge, attitudes, and set of abilities required to recognize when and what information is required, where and how to access it, how to critically assess and organize it once obtained, and how to use it ethically." An issue currently affecting media and information literacy is the concept of fake news, which means false or misleading information presented as news. It often has the aim of damaging the reputation of a person or group, or making money through advertising revenue generated when people click on articles containing the false information. Below are some tips for spotting fake news.

How to Spot Fake News:

- **Check the source:** Look at the website where the story comes from. Does it look real? Is the text well written? Are there a variety of other stories or is it just one story? Fake news websites often use addresses that sound like real newspapers, but don't have many real stories about other topics. If you aren't sure, click on the 'About' page and look for a clear description of the organisation.
- **Watch out for fake photos:** Many fake news stories use images that are Photoshopped or taken from an unrelated site. Sometimes, if you look closely at an image, you can see if it has been changed. Or use a tool like Google Reverse Image search which will show you if the same image has been used elsewhere in different contexts.
- **Check the story is in other places:** Look to see if the story you are reading is on other news sites that you know and trust. If you do find it on many other sites, then it probably isn't fake (although there are some exceptions), as many big news organisations try to check their sources before they publish a story.
- **Look out for other techniques used by fake news creators:** These include using ALL CAPS and lots of ads that pop up when you click on a link. Also, think about how the story makes you feel e.g. if the news story makes you angry, it's probably designed to make you angry. [\[Source\]](#)

Fake News by Tom Jackson

What is fake news? How can the news be wrong? How do we know if what we're reading is true or not? The concept of fake news and the media as a whole is discussed as part of the What's the Issue series. What's the Issue asks 'what's all the fuss about?' It reviews what is at stake when we think about fake news, with the aim of helping young people to understand this difficult subject and provide them with the tools to inform their own opinions on the issue.



The Teenage Guide to Life Online by Nicola Morgan

This is a balanced look at what happens to us all - young and old - when we spend time on the internet. Nicola Morgan explores the pros and cons of life in the Digital Age, from the information explosion to the growth of social media. Opening with a brief history of the web she then explores hot topics like fake news and online privacy, and draws on fascinating, cutting-edge research into how the internet and screen-use affect our ability to concentrate, our mood and sleep patterns. This is a book for families to share: a way for teenagers, their parents and carers to inform themselves about the many advantages and risks of life online.



On This Day in History... The Birth of Kate Mosse, 20th October

Kate Mosse is a British author best known for her *Languedoc* trilogy: a series of books that are connected only by their setting in the South of France. The trilogy consists of three books set in the same area, throughout different time periods. *Labyrinth* is a thriller set in dual timelines across Medieval and contemporary France; *Sepulchre* is a timeslip adventure novel set in both 19th Century and contemporary France; and *Citadel* is a historical fiction novel set during the second world war. *Labyrinth* is Mosse's most famous novel, and it has been translated into more than 37 languages. Since 1993, Mosse has written 11 novels, 1 short story collection, 3 plays, and 4 non-fiction books.



The Winter Ghosts by Kate Mosse

In the winter of 1928, still seeking some kind of resolution to the horrors of World War I, Freddie is traveling through the beautiful but forbidding French Pyrenees. During a snowstorm, his car spins off the mountain road. Dazed, he stumbles through the woods, emerging in a tiny village, where he finds an inn to wait out the blizzard. There he meets Fabrisa, a lovely young woman also mourning a lost generation. Over the course of one night, Fabrisa and Freddie share their stories. By the time dawn breaks, Freddie will have unearthed a tragic, centuries-old mystery, and discovered his own role in the life of this remote town.



Sepulchre by Kate Mosse

In 1891, young Léonie Vernier and her brother Anatole arrive in the beautiful town of Rennes-les-Bains, in southwest France. They've come at the invitation of their widowed aunt, whose mountain estate, *Domain de la Cade*, is famous in the region. But it soon becomes clear that their aunt Isolde - and the Domain - are not what Léonie had imagined. The villagers claim that Isolde's late husband died after summoning a demon from the old Visigoth sepulchre high on the mountainside. A book from the Domain's cavernous library describes the strange tarot pack that mysteriously disappeared following the uncle's death. But while Léonie delves deeper into the ancient mysteries of the Domain, a different evil stalks her family - one which may explain why Léonie and Anatole were invited to the sinister Domain in the first place. More than a century later, Meredith Martin, an American graduate student, arrives in France to study the life of Claude Debussy, the nineteenth century French composer. In Rennes-les-Bains, Meredith checks into a grand old hotel - the *Domain de la Cade*. Something about the hotel feels eerily familiar, and strange dreams and visions begin to haunt Meredith's waking hours. A chance encounter leads her to a pack of tarot cards painted by Léonie Vernier, which may hold the key to this twenty-first century American's fate... just as they did to the fate of Léonie Vernier more than a century earlier.

2023 Books are My Bag Shortlists Announced



The annual Books are My Bag awards are the only book awards curated by book shops and chosen by readers. The awards consist of six shortlists chosen by booksellers across the UK and Ireland (fiction, non-fiction, poetry, young adult fiction, children's fiction, and breakthrough author) as well as a Readers' Choice Award which is nominated exclusively by readers.

The awards launched in 2016 in partnership with National Book Tokens and are now in their eighth year. Below are some of the books from this year's shortlists that are available in the library.

Fiction:

Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow by Gabrielle Zevin

This is the story of Sam and Sadie. It's not a romance, but it is about love. When Sam catches sight of Sadie at a crowded train station one morning he is catapulted straight back to childhood, and the hours they spent immersed in playing games. Their spark is instantly reignited and sets off a creative collaboration that will make them superstars. It is the 90s, and anything is possible. What comes next is a decades-long tale of friendship and rivalry, fame and art, betrayal and tragedy, perfect worlds and imperfect ones. And, above all, our need to connect: to be loved and to love.



Yellowface by R.F. Kuang

White lies, dark humour, deadly consequences. Athena Liu is a literary darling and June Hayward is literally nobody. When Athena dies in a freak accident, June steals her unpublished manuscript and publishes it as her own under the ambiguous name Juniper Song. But as evidence threatens June's stolen success, she will discover exactly how far she will go to keep what she thinks she deserves. What happens next is entirely everyone else's fault.



Young Adult Fiction:

Gwen and Art are Not in Love by Lex Croucher

Gwen, the quick-witted Princess of England, and Arthur, future lord and general gadabout, have been betrothed since birth. Unfortunately, the only thing they can agree on is that they hate each other. When Gwen catches Art kissing a boy and Art discovers where Gwen hides her diary (complete with racy entries about Bridget Leclair, the kingdom's only female knight), they become reluctant allies. By pretending to fall for each other, their mutual protection will be assured. But how long can they keep up the ruse? With Gwen growing closer to Bridget, and Art becoming unaccountably fond of Gabriel, Gwen's infuriatingly serious, bookish brother, the path to true love is looking far from straight...



Children's Fiction:

Jamie by L.D. Lapinski

Jamie Rambeau is a happy 11-year-old non-binary kid who likes nothing better than hanging out with their two best friends Daisy and Ash. But when the trio find out that in Year Seven they will be separated into one school for boys and another for girls, their friendship suddenly seems at risk. And when Jamie realises no one has thought about where they are going to go, they decide to take matters into their own hands, and sort it all out once and for all. As the friends' efforts to raise awareness eventually become a rooftop protest against the binary rules for the local schools, Jamie realises that if they don't figure out a way forwards, they might be at risk of losing both their friends forever.



View the full shortlists [here](#).