

# Read all over

Newstead Wood School Library Bulletin



SPRING

"The habit of reading is the only enjoyment in which there is no alloy; it lasts when all other pleasures fade." – Anthony Trollope

If you would like to renew a book, or have any comments/ queries, please don't hesitate to contact us at [library@newsteadwood.co.uk](mailto:library@newsteadwood.co.uk)  
Happy reading! – Miss Mullins, Miss Walker, and Miss McGarr



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### Wish List Spotlight:

#### A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles

On 21 June 1922, Count Alexander Rostov - recipient of the Order of Saint Andrew, member of the Jockey Club, Master of the Hunt - is escorted out of the Kremlin, across Red Square and through the elegant revolving doors of the Hotel Metropol.

Deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by a Bolshevik tribunal, the Count has been sentenced to house arrest indefinitely. But instead of his usual suite, he must now live in an attic room while Russia undergoes decades of tumultuous upheaval.

Can a life without luxury be the richest of all?



### External Competition: Foyle's Young Poets of the Year Award

The 2024 Foyle's Young Poets of the Year Award is now open for entries. Founded in 1998, the Award has 'kick-started the career of some of today's most exciting new voices, such as Sarah Howe, Caroline Bird, Phoebe Sticks and many others.'

The award is one of the world's foremost writing competitions for poets aged 11-17. It's free to enter, and poems can be on any theme as long as they are forty lines or fewer. Each year, 100 winners (15 top winners and 85 commended winners) are chosen by two high profile poets. Winners receive prizes such as membership to The Poetry Society, a stack of poetry goodies, and opportunities to receive mentoring and develop their creative writing skills. The 15 top winning poems will be published in an anthology. The deadline for entries is midnight on the 31st of July 2024. Entrants may submit as many poems as they wish. Winners will be announced in the Autumn.

This year's judges are renowned poets Vanessa Kisuule and Jack Underwood. Rishi Janakiraman, one of 2023's top 15 Foyle Young Poet Winners said: "Being a Foyle winner means so much to me. It feels like my voice is being given a spotlight, and that's so important for young writers."

[Click here to enter the competition.](#)

### Holly Jackson is Britain's Best-Selling Female Author of Crime Fiction



Holly Jackson, author of the incredibly popular A Good Girl's Guide to Murder series (recently adapted into a TV show), has been crowned the bestselling female crime author in Britain. In a recent interview with The Guardian, Jackson told journalist Lucy Knight how she had entered the literary world by proposing an adult novel "about a thief with obsessive compulsive disorder in a dystopian 15th/16th-century England" to an agent, who wasn't interested in the idea but asked if she had any others. When the agent showed an interest in the plot of A Good Girl's Guide to Murder, Jackson wrote the novel in just seven weeks so that the agent wouldn't forget her. The book was the UK's bestselling young adult debut novel in 2019 and has continued to sell in huge quantities. Jackson has since released two sequels to her first novel and a standalone thriller, Five Survive.

Last year, Holly Jackson sold more books than any other young adult author and became the UK's top selling female author of crime fiction. Her popularity can be seen in microcosm in our school library with A Good Girl's Guide to Murder consistently appearing on our most borrowed books of the month list. Read Holly Jackson's Guardian interview with Lucy Knight [here](#).

#### A Good Girl's Guide to Murder by Holly Jackson

Everyone in Fairview knows the story. Pretty and popular high school senior Andie Bell was murdered by her boyfriend, Sal Singh, who then killed himself. It was all anyone could talk about. And five years later, Pip sees how the tragedy still haunts her town. But she can't shake the feeling that there was more to what happened that day. She knew Sal when she was a child, and he was always so kind to her. How could he possibly have been a killer? Now a senior herself, Pip decides to re-examine the closed case for her final project, at first just to cast doubt on the original investigation. But soon she discovers a trail of dark secrets that might actually prove Sal innocent... and the line between past and present begins to blur. Someone in Fairview doesn't want Pip digging around for answers, and now her own life might be in danger.



#### Five Survive by Holly Jackson

Eighteen year old Red and her friends are on a road trip in an RV, heading to the beach for Spring Break. Spirits are high. Until the RV breaks down in the middle of nowhere. And as the wheels are shot out, one by one, the friends realise that this is no accident. There's a sniper out there. He's watching them and he knows exactly who they are. One of the group has a secret that the sniper is willing to kill for. As a game of cat-and-mouse plays out, the group desperately tries to get help. Buried secrets are forced to light and tensions within the group reach deadly levels. Only one thing is for sure. Not everyone will survive the night...



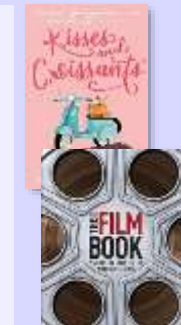
#### You're the One That I Want by Simon James Green

Freddie is unremarkable - too unremarkable. He doesn't stand out in any way, and in fact teachers and fellow students keep forgetting who he is. Even his mum thinks he's a disappointment, and spends almost all her time at work, producing a TV show. After a particularly awful night when he embarrasses himself in front of Jasper Perry (the gorgeous teen star of Freddie's mum's new show), Freddie decides to follow a new, proactive philosophy designed to transform his social and romantic life: saying 'yes' to every opportunity. It works! Freddie finds himself auditioning for the school musical (Grease), actually going to parties, and flirting with hot new boy Zach! He's becoming a whole new Freddie - maybe even one that his mum might be proud of. But the path to love is never smooth, and sometimes getting things very wrong is an important part of figuring out what - and who - you really want.



#### Kisses and Croissants by Anne-Sophie Jouhanneau

Mia Jenrow has always known she's destined to be a professional ballerina. In fact, it's in her blood - according to family legend, her too-many-greats-to-count-grandmother once danced for the Paris Opera and was painted by Degas himself! Her parents say it's just a fantasy, but to Mia it's so much more than that. It's her fate. Mia is planning to spend a magical summer in France pursuing her dream, but as she prou-ettes into Paris, she soon realizes it may be a bit more complicated than she hoped. For starters, there's her rival, Audrey, who will stop at nothing to show her up. There's her ballet instructor, whose impossibly high standards push her to the breaking point. And then... there's Louis. Devastatingly, distractingly charming Louis. He's eager to show Mia his city - and Mia is more than happy to hop on his Vespa and wrap her arms around him as they pass the gleaming lights of the Eiffel Tower. Mia's summer was supposed to be about ballet - but there's a reason Paris is called the City of Love...



#### The Film Book by Ronald Bergan

A comprehensive, fun-to-browse, and easy-to-use source of everything you want to know about the movies and the people behind them, The Film Book is a unique treasure trove of a guide that will appeal to anyone who loves movies. From the history of the art form to techniques, and then the films themselves, The Film Book provides an overview of cinematic styles and genres; the industry's greatest and most influential directors, and their key works; as well as looking at filmmaking around the world, from Hollywood to Bollywood.

#### My Brilliant Friend by Elena Ferrante (Recommended for older readers)

A modern masterpiece from one of Italy's most acclaimed authors, My Brilliant Friend is a rich, intense and generous-hearted story about two friends, Elena and Lila. Ferrante's inimitable style lends itself perfectly to a meticulous portrait of these two women that is also the story of a nation and a touching meditation on the nature of friendship. Through the lives of these two women, Ferrante tells the story of a neighbourhood, a city and a country as it is transformed in ways that, in turn, also transform the relationship between her two protagonists.



### Latino Books Month (USA)

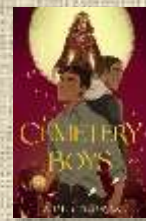
Latino Books Month was launched in the USA in May 2004 and has been observed annually since. The month is dedicated to all Latino/a/e authors, illustrators and books, including fiction, poetry, drama, autobiography and art. People of Latin heritage make up 19.1% of the population of the USA, and 0.1% of the population of the UK. The month is named for the masculine version of 'Latin', with the feminine version being 'Latina' and the gender-neutral term being 'Latinx', 'Latine', or just simply 'Latin'. Though this month is a US observance, we have an abundance of brilliant books by authors of Latin heritage in the library and this is the perfect chance to put a spotlight on them.

Arguably some of the most influential authors of literature with Latin heritage are Gabriel García Márquez (1927-2014) and Isabel Allende (1942- current). García Márquez was a Colombian novelist best known for his work of magical realism, One Hundred Years of Solitude, and Allende is a novelist of American-Chilean descent who also explores the genre of magical realism in her most famous novel The House of the Spirits. There are also many contemporary authors of Latin heritage, examples of which can be seen below. If you have any suggestions for books by authors of Latin heritage that you'd like to see in the library, please put the titles in our suggestion box.

[Click here to find out more about Latino Books Month](#)

#### Cemetery Boys by Aiden Thomas

Yadriel has summoned a ghost, and now he can't get rid of him. When his traditional Latinx family has problems accepting his gender, Yadriel becomes determined to prove himself a real brujo. With the help of his cousin and best friend Maritza, he performs the ritual himself, and then sets out to find the ghost of his murdered cousin and set it free. However, the ghost he summons is actually Julian Diaz, the school's resident bad boy, and Julian is not about to go quietly into death. He's determined to find out what happened and tie up some loose ends before he leaves. Left with no choice, Yadriel agrees to help Julian, so that they can both get what they want. But the longer Yadriel spends with Julian, the less he wants to let him leave.



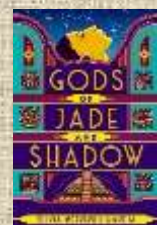
#### Clap When You Land by Elizabeth Acevedo

Camino Rios lives for the summers when her father visits her in the Dominican Republic. But this time, on the day when his plane is supposed to land, Camino arrives at the airport to see crowds of crying people... In New York City, Yahaira Rios is called to the principal's office, where her mother is waiting to tell her that her father, her hero, has died in a plane crash. Separated by distance - and Papi's secrets - the two girls are forced to face a new reality in which their father is dead and their lives are forever altered. And then, when it seems like they've lost everything of their father, they learn of each other.



#### Gods of Jade and Shadow by Silvia Moreno-Garcia

The Jazz Age is in full swing, but Casiopea Tun is too busy cleaning the floors of her wealthy grandfather's house to listen to any fast tunes. Nevertheless, she dreams of a life far from her dusty small town in southern Mexico. A life she can call her own. Yet this new life seems as distant as the stars, until the day she finds a curious wooden box in her grandfather's room. She opens it - and accidentally frees the spirit of the Mayan god of death, who requests her help in recovering his throne from his treacherous brother. Failure will mean Casiopea's demise, but success could make her dreams come true. In the company of the strangely alluring god and armed with her wits, Casiopea begins an adventure that will take her on a cross-country odyssey from the jungles of Yucatán to the bright lights of Mexico City - and deep into the darkness of the Mayan underworld.



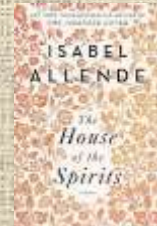
#### One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel García Márquez

Gabriel García Márquez's great masterpiece is the story of seven generations of the Buendía family and of Macondo, the town they have built. Though little more than a settlement surrounded by mountains, Macondo has its wars and disasters, even its wonders and its miracles. A microcosm of Columbian life, its secrets lie hidden, encoded in a book, and only Aureliano Buendía can fathom its mysteries and reveal its shrouded destiny. Blending political reality with magic realism, fantasy and comic invention, One Hundred Years of Solitude is one of the most daringly original works of the twentieth century.



#### The House of the Spirits by Isabel Allende

In one of the most important and beloved Latin American works of the twentieth century, Isabel Allende weaves a luminous tapestry of three generations of the Trueba family, revealing both triumphs and tragedies. Here is patriarch Esteban, whose wild desires and political machinations are tempered only by his love for his ethereal wife, Clara, a woman touched by an otherworldly hand. Their daughter, Blanca, whose forbidden love for a man Esteban has deemed unworthy infuriates her father yet will produce his greatest joy: his granddaughter Alba, a beautiful, ambitious girl who will lead the family and their country into a revolutionary future.



#### In the Dream House by Carmen Maria Machado (Recommended for older readers)

For years Carmen Maria Machado has struggled to articulate her experiences in an abusive same-sex relationship. In this extraordinarily candid and radically inventive memoir, Machado tackles a dark and difficult subject with wit, inventiveness and an inquiring spirit, as she uses a series of narrative tropes - including classic horror themes - to create an entirely unique piece of work which is destined to become an instant classic.



#### And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie

First, there were ten - a curious assortment of strangers summoned as weekend guests to a little private island off the coast of Devon. Their host, an eccentric millionaire unknown to all of them, is nowhere to be found. All that the guests have in common is a wicked past they're unwilling to reveal - and a secret that will seal their fate. For each has been marked for murder. A famous nursery rhyme is framed and hung in every room of the mansion. When they realize that murders are occurring as described in the rhyme, terror mounts. One by one they fall prey. Before the weekend is out, there will be none. Who has choreographed this dastardly scheme? And who will be left to tell the tale? Only the dead are above suspicion.



#### Who Let the Gods Out? by Maz Evans

Elliot's mum is ill and his home is under threat, but a shooting star crashes to earth and changes his life forever. The star is Virgo - a young Zodiac goddess on a mission. But the pair accidentally release Thanatos, a wicked death daemon imprisoned beneath Stonehenge, and must then turn to the old Olympian gods for help. After centuries of cushy retirement on earth, are Zeus and his crew up to the task of saving the world - and solving Elliot's problems too?



#### Queer Euripides by Sarah Olsen

This volume is the first attempt to reconsider the entire corpus of an ancient canonical author through the lens of queerness broadly conceived, taking as its subject Euripides, the latest of the three great Athenian tragedians. Although Euripides' plays have long been seen as a valuable source for understanding the construction of gender and sexuality in ancient Greece, scholars of Greek tragedy have only recently begun to engage with queer theory and its ongoing developments. Queer Euripides represents a vital step in exploring the productive perspectives on classical literature afforded by the critical study of orientations, identities, affects and experiences that unsettle not only prescriptive understandings of gender and sexuality, but also normative social structures and relations more broadly. Bringing together twenty-one chapters by experts in classical studies, English literature, performance and critical theory, this carefully curated collection of incisive and provocative readings of each surviving play draws upon queer models of temporality, subjectivity, feeling, relationality and poetic form to consider "queerness" both as and beyond sexuality. Rather than adhering to a single school of thought, these close readings showcase the multiple ways in which queer theory opens up new vantage points on the politics, aesthetics and performative force of Euripidean drama.

### 2nd May: World Password Day

Created in 2013 by technology company Intel, World Password Day is observed on the first Thursday in May with the goal of raising awareness of the critical need for strong passwords. Compromised passwords can put your digital identity and personal information at risk. Below are some tips for creating a strong password in order to protect your information from cybercriminals.



#### Tips for Creating a Strong Password:

- Never use personal information in your password e.g. your name, birthday, username, or email address. This type of information is often publicly available, which makes it easier for someone to guess your password.
- Avoid using words that can be found in the dictionary.
- Use a longer password. Your password should be at least six characters long.
- Don't use the same password for each account: if someone discovers your password for one account, all of your other accounts using that password will be vulnerable.
- Random passwords are the strongest. Click [here](#) to generate a strong, random password.

#### Cybersecurity by Lester Evans

If you want to avoid getting hacked, having your information spread and risking financial loss, then keep reading... Do you create tons of accounts you will never again visit? Do you get annoyed thinking up new passwords, so you just use the same one across all your accounts? Does your password contain a sequence of numbers, such as "123456"? Do you automatically click all links and download all email attachments coming from your friends? This book will show you just how incredibly lucky you are that nobody's hacked you before. With this handy little book as your starting point, you can finally go from a stary-eyed internet user to a paranoid cybersecurity geek. With plenty of examples, this book will show you that the internet is not merely a way to watch cute cat videos; it's a battlefield, a military invention that was accidentally found to be capable of overpowering any threat economically, digitally and politically.



### Gareth Rubin Writes New Sherlock Holmes Novel

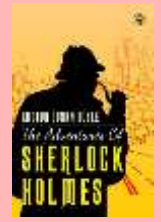


Since the original Sherlock Holmes stories were published by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (between 1887 and 1927) only one author, Anthony Horowitz, has been allowed by Conan Doyle's estate to write more material in the canon of the Holmes mythology. To date, Horowitz has written two stories set within the Holmes universe, The House of Silk, and Moriarty. This year, thriller author Gareth Rubin has been given official permission to publish a new Holmes novel and has penned a story that will 'give equal billing to arch-villain Professor James Moriarty'. The novel is called Holmes and Moriarty and 'unites the detecting skills of the talented sleuth with those of his greatest adversary, a criminal mastermind who runs an unseen network of thieves, murderers and blackmailers and yet never leaves a trace to link him to the scene.' The book will be published on the 12th of September this year. Click [here](#) to read the original Guardian article by Vanessa Thorpe.



#### The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes by Arthur Conan Doyle

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes is a collection of twelve short stories by Arthur Conan Doyle, first published in 1892. It contains the earliest short stories featuring the consulting detective Sherlock Holmes. The stories are collected in the same sequence, which is not supported by any fictional chronology. The only characters common to all twelve are Holmes and Dr. Watson and all are related in first-person narrative from Watson's point of view.



#### A Study in Scarlet by Arthur Conan Doyle

When Dr John Watson takes rooms in Baker Street with amateur detective Sherlock Holmes, he has no idea that he is about to enter a shadowy world of criminality and violence. Accompanying Holmes to an ill-omened house in south London, Watson is started to find a dead man whose face is contorted in a rictus of horror. There is no mark of violence on the body yet a single word is written on the wall in blood. Dr Watson is as baffled as the police, but Holmes's brilliant analytical skills soon uncover a trail of murder, revenge and lost love...



#### The Hound of the Baskervilles by Arthur Conan Doyle

The Baskerville family curse tells of how a terrifying, supernatural hound roams the moors around Baskerville Hall and preys on members of the family in revenge for a ghastly crime committed by one of their ancestors. When Sir Charles Baskerville is found dead in the grounds, with a large animal footprint near his lifeless body, the locals are convinced that the hound is back. It is up to Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson to uncover the truth and keep the new heir to the hall safe from