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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!

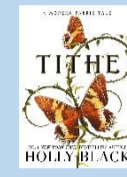


"The month of May is a gateway to summer." – Jean Hersey

NEW

I Can't Even Think Straight by Dean Atta

Kai is going into a new school year with some big decisions to make: when to come out as gay, what he wants to do in life and who he wants to date. Is it any wonder he can't think straight? Best friends Matt and Kai made a promise to each other to stay in the closet. Matt isn't ready to come out, but Kai wants nothing more than to write his own story. He decides it's time to break his promise and show his true self to the world. Now out and proud, Kai starts dating super-hot Obi, but it's far from smooth sailing. Is love closer to home than Kai realises?



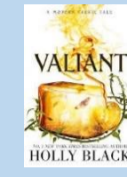
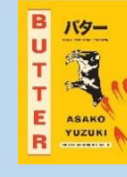
Tithe #1 by Holly Black

Sixteen-year-old Kaye is a modern nomad. Fierce and independent, she drifts from place to place with her mother's rock band until an ominous attack forces them back to Kaye's childhood home. But Kaye's life takes another turn when she stumbles upon an injured faerie knight in the woods. Kaye has always been able to see faeries where others could not, and she chooses to save the strange young man instead of leaving him to die. But this fateful choice will have more dire consequences than she could ever predict, as Kaye soon finds herself the unwilling pawn in an ancient and violent power struggle between two rival faerie kingdoms - a struggle that could very well mean her death.

Butter by Asako Yuzuki

(recommended for older readers)

Journalist Rika Machida is facing an unusual assignment: she is tapped to investigate serial killer Manako Kajiji, notorious for drawing rich men in with her pricey cooking classes, only to murder them and move on to the next. Kajiji refuses to cooperate with the press until Rika writes her a letter asking for her beef stew recipe, a correspondence and ongoing series of conversations between the two women that sees Rika transforming as she becomes closer to Kajiji, taking on some of her confidence and strength but also some of her deadly intention.

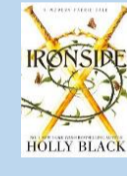


Valiant #2 by Holly Black

When seventeen-year-old Valerie runs away to New York, she's trying to escape a life that has utterly betrayed her. Sporting a new identity, she takes up with a gang of squatters who live in the city's labyrinthine subway system. But there's something eerily beguiling about Val's new friends that sets her on edge. When Val is talked into tracking down the lair of a mysterious creature, she must strike a bargain to make it out with her life intact. Now drawn into a world she never knew existed, Val finds herself torn between her affection for an honourable monster and her fear of what her new friends are becoming.

You've Found Oliver #2 by Dustin Thao

It's been a year since his best friend, Sam, died. Even though Oliver knows he won't get a response, he can't stop texting Sam's number, especially as the anniversary of his death approaches. Then one day he accidentally hits the call button, and someone picks up. The voice on the other end isn't Sam—Sam's number was reassigned and a stranger has been reading Oliver's private and vulnerable messages for months. But Ben, an astronomy student in Seattle, won't remain a stranger for long. When they finally meet in person, their spark is undeniable. Everything seems perfect until Oliver discovers something strange that could keep them from being together.



Ironside #3 by Holly Black

As the possessor of Robin's true name, sixteen-year-old Kaye returns to Faerieland to try and complete a once-impossible quest that will release him from the spell of the faery queen who holds him in thrall.

15th May is... Bike to School Day!

Bike to School Day is a special event that encourages kids and families to enjoy the benefits of riding bicycles to school while promoting healthy living, exercise, and environmentally friendly transportation. The event grew out of the excitement surrounding National Bike Month and the success of International Walk to School Day, bringing communities together to support safe and active travel to school. Bicycles themselves have a long history dating back to the 1800s, with early versions first created in France before the modern bicycle was later designed in England. During the 19th century, bicycles, then known as "velocipedes," became very popular, especially after news from Paris inspired a bicycle craze in the United States in 1868. Today, bicycles are one of the common forms of transportation in the world, with roughly twice as many bikes as cars globally. And they outsell automobiles three to one. Similarly, Walk Safely to School Day takes place on May 15 each year in Australia and encourages primary school children to safely walk to school while learning important road safety rules. Established by the Pedestrian Council of Australia, the event first began in New South Wales in 1999 before becoming a nationwide event in 2004. Its goals include helping children develop healthy exercise habits, encouraging nutritious diets, and reducing carbon emissions caused by driving to school. The day also connects to the long history of primary education, which has existed since ancient times when children first received lessons at home before moving into formal schooling. Today, primary schools aim to teach students basic literacy, arithmetic, and positive habits, while events like Walk Safely to School Day continue to encourage children to care for their personal health, safety, and the environment. For more information, click [here](#).



Seven Deadly Sins: My Pursuit of Lance Armstrong by David Walsh

In the autumn of 2012, the USADA published a damning report on Armstrong that resulted in the American being stripped of his seven Tour victories and left his reputation in shreds. Walsh's long fight to reveal the truth had been vindicated. This book tells the compelling story of one man's struggle to bring that truth to light against all the odds.

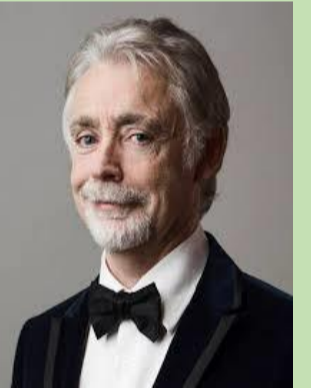
Multi-Sport Training for Fitness by Fiona Hayes

From advice on how to introduce some variety to your fitness programme, to constructing the most effective workout, this handbook covers all aspects of multi-sport training. It is packed with adoptable training programmes for running, cycling, swimming, walking and weights.



On This Day... Eoin Colfer was born 14th May 1965

Eoin Colfer is a popular Irish author best known for creating exciting fantasy and science fiction stories for young readers, especially the internationally successful Artemis Fowl series. He was born on May 14, 1965, in Wexford and grew up in a large family with four brothers and one sister. His father worked as an elementary school teacher, and this had a strong influence on Colfer's love of reading, storytelling, and creativity from an early age. As a child, he enjoyed making up imaginative stories and entertaining his classmates with his ideas, showing signs of his future talent as a writer. Colfer attended Wexford CBS primary school and later studied at Wexford Grammar School, where his interest in writing continued to grow. After finishing his education, he became a primary school teacher himself, but he spent much of his free time writing stories and developing ideas for novels. In 1998, he published his first novel, Benny and Omar, which received positive reviews and marked the beginning of his successful writing career. However, Colfer became internationally famous



in 2001 with the release of Artemis Fowl, a unique fantasy series about a brilliant young criminal mastermind who becomes involved with a secret world of technologically advanced faeries. The series was praised for combining fantasy, science fiction, action, humour, and clever storytelling in a way that appealed to both children and adults. He also continued the famous The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy franchise by writing And Another Thing... showing his versatility as a writer. Colfer's books are known for their fast-paced plots, humour, imaginative worlds, and memorable characters, which have helped them attract readers across the globe. He has also won and been nominated for major literary awards such as the Irish Book Awards and the German Children's Literature Award. Today, Eoin Colfer is considered one of Ireland's most successful modern authors, and his stories continue to inspire young readers with their creativity, adventure, and originality. To find out more, click [here](#).

Artemis Fowl #1 by Eoin Colfer

In this, the story of Artemis' first encounter with the fairy People, you'll find out how he hatched a plot to restore his family's fortune. You'll read how he discovered a world below ground of armed and dangerous faeries, farting dwarfs and mind-blowing technology. And you'll learn how, by kidnapping Captain Holly Short of the Lower Elements Police, Artemis almost triggered a cross-species war.



On This Day... Daphne Du Maurier was born 13th May 1907-1989

Daphne du Maurier was a highly influential English author and playwright who became famous for her suspenseful and atmospheric novels, especially the classic gothic novel Rebecca. She was born on May 13, 1907, in London into a creative and well-known family. Her father, Sir Gerald du Maurier, was a respected actor and theatre manager, which exposed her to literature, storytelling, and the arts from a young age. Growing up in this artistic environment helped inspire her future career as a writer. Du Maurier developed a passion for writing early in life and eventually became one of the most successful British authors of the 20th century. Her first novel, The Loving Spirit, was published in 1931 and introduced readers to her dramatic storytelling style and interest in romance, mystery, and emotional conflict. Many of her stories were set in Cornwall, a rugged coastal region in southwest England where she later lived and found inspiration in the wild landscapes, isolated homes, and changing weather, all of which created the mysterious atmosphere that became a key feature of her writing. Throughout her career, she wrote many novels, short stories, plays, and historical works that blended romance, suspense, and psychological tension. Her most famous novel, Rebecca, published in 1938, tells the story of a young woman who marries a wealthy widower and moves into his grand estate, only to feel haunted by the memory of his late wife, Rebecca. The novel became an international bestseller because of its mystery, emotional depth, and gothic setting, and it was later adapted into a successful 1940 film directed by Alfred Hitchcock, further increasing du Maurier's fame around the world. In addition to fiction, she also wrote nonfiction works such as Vanishing Cornwall, which explored the history, culture, and beauty of Cornwall, showing her deep connection to the region. Later in life, she published autobiographical works including Gardens of Peace, where she reflected on her childhood and writing career, as well as The Rendezvous and Other Stories and The Rebecca Notebook and Other Memories, which offered readers insight into her personal memories and creative process. In recognition of her achievements and contributions to literature, she was made a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1969. Du Maurier died on April 19, 1989, in Cornwall at the age of 81, but her works remain widely studied and enjoyed today because of their rich descriptions, unforgettable characters, and ability to create suspense and mystery that continue to captivate readers around the world. To find out more, click [here](#).



Rebecca by Daphne Du Maurier

So begins Daphne du Maurier's masterpiece, Rebecca. When the story's nameless narrator, a young and unassuming lady's maid, meets a wealthy and handsome widower, she is immediately swept off her feet in what many would've considered an unlikely 20th century match. Maxim de Winter, the owner of a large country estate by the name of Manderley, whisks his new bride away to his home in Cornwall, hoping to rid himself of his sinister past. As the heroine begins her new life at Manderley, she comes to the realisation that the shadow of her predecessor, Rebecca de Winter, lives on through the masonry of the home and through the stern and scathing housekeeper, Mrs Danvers.

Jamaica Inn by Daphne Du Maurier

After the death of her mother, Mary Yellan crosses the windswept Cornish moors to Jamaica Inn, the home of her Aunt Patience. There she finds Patience a changed woman, downtrodden by her domineering, vicious husband Joss Merlyn. The inn is a front for a lawless gang of criminals, and Mary is unwillingly dragged into their dangerous world of smuggling and murder. Before long she will be forced to cross her own moral line to save herself...

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 sense of dominance over the natural world. The mountain paradise of 'Monte Verità' 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...



16th May is... Wear Purple for Peace Day!

Wear Purple for Peace Day is celebrated every year on May 16 as a creative and unusual way to encourage peace around the world. The holiday is partly known for the humorous idea that wearing purple could attract aliens to visit Earth if they see humanity living peacefully, although the main purpose of the day is to promote kindness, understanding, and hope for world peace. The exact origins of the event are unknown, much like the mystery surrounding extraterrestrials, but the message of peace is something people everywhere can understand and relate to. Peace means living without violence, war, or conflict, yet many parts of the world still experience fighting and unrest today. Because of this, even a simple action like wearing purple can become a small symbol of support for global



harmony and cooperation. The holiday also encourages people to believe that world peace is possible if individuals work together and maintain faith in humanity instead of focusing only on negativity and division. World peace is imagined as a state where people in all countries can live freely, happily, and safely without fear of violence or war. Supporters of the day believe that achieving peace starts within each person by replacing negative emotions like anger and hatred with positive qualities such as compassion, understanding, and kindness. If more people create peace within themselves, it can spread outward into communities and eventually across the world. The colour purple was chosen because it is often linked with royalty, wisdom, spirituality, nobility, ambition, and peace, making it a meaningful symbol for a day dedicated to encouraging a calmer and more united world.

Voices Against War: A Century of Protest by Lyn Smith

Based on nearly 200 personal testimonies from the Imperial War Museum's Collections, this landmark book tells the stories of those of those who participated in anti-war protest from the First World War 1914-18 to the ongoing conflicts in modern times.



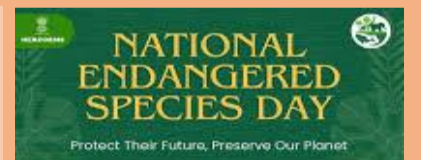
The United Nations: A Beginner's Guide by Norrie MacQueen

Since its inception in 1945, the United Nations has had a powerful but controversial influence on global politics. In this well-written and informative guide, Norrie MacQueen provides a clear introduction to its institutions, remit, personalities, and role in the modern world. Defending it from common criticisms of bureaucratic paralysis and bias towards the developed world, MacQueen argues that its limitations are due to the complex web of national interests that it seeks to reconcile.



16th May is... Endangered Species Day

Endangered Species Day is an important event that raises awareness about the thousands of plant and animal species around the world that are at risk of extinction. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species, Earth is home to more than 16,000 endangered species, including plants, animals, fungi, and algae. In the United States alone, nearly 700 animal species and 900 plant species are considered threatened or endangered. Many of these species are in danger because of human activities such as habitat destruction, pollution, overhunting, overfishing, climate change, and the spread of invasive species that disrupt ecosystems. Since humans are responsible for many of these environmental problems, people also play a major role in protecting and restoring endangered species through conservation efforts and greater environmental awareness. Endangered Species Day, celebrated



every year on the third Friday of May, not only highlights the struggles endangered species continue to face but also celebrates successful recoveries made possible through conservation laws and programs. One important example is the Endangered Species Act of 1973 in the United States, which has helped protect and restore famous species such as the Bald Eagle, the American Alligator, and the Gray Wolf. Around the world, governments, environmental organizations, scientists, and local communities continue to work together to preserve biodiversity and protect natural habitats, although the challenge of saving endangered species is ongoing. The day also encourages people to learn more about endangered species living in their own communities and to take simple actions, such as reducing waste, protecting natural spaces, and supporting environmentally friendly practices, to help create a healthier planet for future generations. For more information, click [here](#).

Threatened Habitats by Uma Sachidhanand

Green Alert introduces readers to environment issues, exploring the causes and effects. It features case studies from around the world, and includes projects to help creative planning, decision-making and problem-solving skills.

The Atlas of Endangered Species by Richard Mackay

With global maps, regional maps to illuminate various aspects, colour photographs of rare creatures and case studies, this atlas is a reference to endangered species and their habitats.

Global Warming: What If We Do Nothing? by Neil Morris

Each title in this series looks at the key issues of today. Aimed at children aged 12-14, the authors speculate on what might happen in the future if we do nothing to solve the problem today. Each chapter in this book on global warming ends with a debate panel to promote classroom discussion.

