



## WINTER

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 Henry



Access our library software from any device, anywhere, using this URL: <https://uk.accessit.online/nws00>

To log in, click on the blue button that says, 'Login with School Details,' or enter your school email address in the Borrower ID field and your school password in the password field. Use Accessit to view your loans; reserve books when you're unable to come to the library; search the library stock; write book reviews, and more.

Follow us on Twitter / X:  
@NWSLibrary

Follow us on Instagram:  
@nwschoollibrary

See what we're reading on Storygraph:  
<https://app.thestorygraph.com/profile/newsteadlibrary>

View our Amazon Wish List:  
[https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/31UREQLV3HCl?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/31UREQLV3HCl?ref=wl_share)

### Library Book Returned After 50 Years



*The Road to Wigan Pier* by George Orwell was recently returned to Hull's Central Library 50 years past its due date. The book, which was due to be returned in 1974, was brought back by an 'embarrassed anonymous borrower.' Library staff member Katie Holdstock said that the book is too old to be checked out again and has a 'musty odour' because it has been kept in storage for so long. During the pandemic, Hull Central Library stopped charging fines for late books, so the anonymous borrower did not have to pay for the overdue book. Holdstock said, "we waived library fines in the pandemic and never brought them back in again. We want there to be as few barriers as possible to customers using our libraries." In 1974, people could borrow up to seven books at a time, and of course fines were in place with "strict wording stamped inside the book to remind users of that." Now, the library wants to make it easier for everyone to use their services. Over the past 50 years, the library has changed a lot. They are now offering activities like street dance, live music, and gaming. Original BBC article by Sally Fairfax [here](https://www.bbc.com/news/culture-50-years-on-the-road-to-wigan-pier).

#### *The Road to Wigan Pier* by George Orwell

A searing account of George Orwell's experiences of working-class life in the bleak industrial heartlands of Yorkshire and Lancashire. *The Road to Wigan Pier* is a brilliant and bitter polemic that has lost none of its political impact over time. His graphically unforgettable descriptions of social injustice, squalor, mining conditions, squalor, hunger, and growing unemployment are written with unblinking honesty, fury, and great humanity.



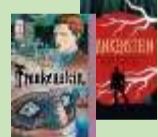
### Tragedy Found to Have Inspired Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*

**Content Warning: Suicide.** Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* was written during a dreary summer in 1816 when Shelley, her husband Percy, and several of their writer friends were staying in Switzerland in a mansion called the Villa Diodati. During that summer, volcanic ash clouds blocked the sun and the group of authors were kept indoors for three June days due to "incessant rain." They used this time to compete in writing the best fantastical tale, and from this competition sprang Shelley's *Frankenstein* (as well as John William Polidori's *The Vampyre*).



Mary Shelley (left) and Fanny Imlay (right)

This year, a newly published collection of Mary Shelley's personal journals, *Mary Shelley in Bath*, has revealed that *Frankenstein's* dark themes were influenced by the tragic suicide of Shelley's half-sister Fanny Imlay. In her journals, Shelley recorded the possibility that a contributing reason to Fanny ending her life could have been a feeling of disconnection between the half-sisters – Fanny felt isolated and lonely following the Shelleys' marriage. It is further suggested that Fanny had developed a crush on Mary's husband Percy, and that one or both of them spoke with Fanny on the day that she died – it is posited that this conversation could have included a final rejection of Fanny by Percy. This personal loss of Mary Shelley's, and the circumstances around it, add a new layer of meaning to the melancholy of *Frankenstein's* monster. Shelley scholar Fiona Sampson says she can now hear the 'sad voice' of Fanny in the creature's lament: "I am alone and miserable. Only someone as ugly as I am could love me." As the story is set to be adapted into a Netflix film, this new perspective adds layers of complexity to Shelley's work and its exploration of isolation and identity. Original *Guardian* article by Vanessa Thorpe [here](https://www.theguardian.com/books/2022/dec/16/frankenstein-mary-shelley-fanny-implay).



#### *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley

The story of Victor Frankenstein who, obsessed with creating life itself, plunders graveyards for the material to fashion a new being, but whose botched creature sets out to destroy his maker, would become the world's most famous work of horror fiction, and remains a devastating exploration of the limits of human creativity.

#### *Frankenstein: Junji Ito's Story Collection* by Junji Ito

Junji Ito meets Mary Shelley! The master of horror manga blends all his skill into bringing the anguished and solitary monster and the fowler beat who created him with the brilliantly detailed chiaroscuro he is known for. Also included are the Oshikiri story cycle—a high school students who live in a decaying mansion connect to a haunted parallel world. Uncanny doppelgängers, unfortunately murdered friends, and a whole lot more are in store for him.

### National Puzzle Day

January 29<sup>th</sup> is National Puzzle Day, a day dedicated to the enjoyment and appreciation of puzzles in all their forms. The day highlights the mental health benefits of engaging with puzzles, such as improving problem-solving skills, enhancing memory, and promoting critical thinking. National Puzzle Day encourages people to take time to engage in various types of puzzles, including jigsaw puzzles, crosswords, sudokus, and brain teasers. It serves as a reminder of the joy and challenge that puzzles provide, fostering creativity and relaxation while also bringing people together through collaborative solving. Schools use this day to promote cognitive development making it an occasion for entertainment and education. *The Independent's* website hosts a variety of puzzles ranging from crosswords to Mah-jongg, [click here to play](https://www.independent.co.uk/games/puzzles).

#### *Entertaining Mathematical Puzzles* by Martin Gardner

Only an elementary knowledge of math is needed to enjoy this entertaining compilation of brainteasers. It includes a mixture of old and new riddles covering a variety of mathematical topics: money, speed, plane and solid geometry, probability, topology, tricky puzzles and more. Carefully explained solutions follow each problem. 65 black-and-white illustrations.



#### *Can You Solve My Problems?* by Alex Bellos

Here are 125 of the world's best brainteasers from the last two millennia, taking us from ancient China to medieval Europe, Victorian England to modern-day Japan, with stories of espionage, mathematical breakthroughs and puzzling rivalries along the way. Pit your wits against logic puzzles and kinship riddles, pangrams and river-crossing conundrums. Some solutions rely on a touch of cunning, others call for creativity, others need mercilessly logical thought. Some can only be solved by 2 per cent of the population. All are guaranteed to sharpen your mind. Let's get puzzling!

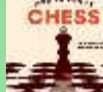


*"This moment will just be another story someday."* – Stephen Chbosky



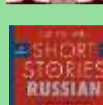
#### *How to Win at Chess: The Ultimate Guide for Beginners and Beyond* by Levy Rozman

Learn chess from International Master and top Youtube chess teacher GothamChess in this accessible and fun guide for beginner and mid-level players packed full of game-winning strategies and entertaining wit. Clever and informative, *How to Win at Chess* teaches beginner and intermediate players the art of the game, including all the important chess moves and strategies to keep you thinking several steps ahead.



#### *Short Stories in Russian for Beginners* by Olly Richards

Short Stories in Russian for Beginners has been written especially for students from beginner to intermediate level, designed to give a sense of achievement, and most importantly - enjoyment! Mapped to A2-B1 on the Common European Framework of Reference, these eight captivating stories will both entertain you, and give you a feeling of progress when reading.



#### *Dopamine Nation: Why Our Addiction to Pleasure is Causing Us Pain* by Dr Anna Lembke

We are a wired generation. In these fast-paced times we are constantly bombarded by high-reward, high-dopamine stimuli. From texting to social media, food to drugs, gambling to shopping, we have become addicted to fleeting and distracting pleasures that are making us sick. In *Dopamine Nation*, psychiatrist and bestselling author Dr Anna Lembke reveals why our relentless pursuit of pleasure leads to pain and what we can do about it. Bringing together cutting-edge neuroscience with the gripping real life experiences from her clinical practice, Lembke explores how contentment and connectedness are essential tools in keeping dopamine in check. This is an essential book for anyone wanting to find a balance for a happier life.



#### *Sing if You Can't Dance* by Alexia Casale

Ven has her future all planned out. Her dance group is going places and so is she... Then she collapses. On stage. In hospital, Ven discovers that she has a medical condition - one that threatens to ruin everything. No more dancing... walking is challenging enough. But she doesn't want your pity. Ven is determined to have a big, exciting life. Sure, her future might be different, but it's not over... Because if you can't dance, you can always sing! Refreshing, uplifting and original, *Sing if You Can't Dance* is the unforgettable story of a teenager living life on her own terms.



#### *The Color of Money: Black Banks and the Racial Wealth Gap* by Mehrsa Baradaran

When the Emancipation Proclamation was signed in 1863, the black community owned less than 1 percent of the total wealth in America. More than 150 years later, that number has barely budged. *The Color of Money* seeks to explain the stubborn persistence of this racial wealth gap by focusing on the generators of wealth in the black community: black banks. With the civil rights movement in full swing, President Nixon promoted "black capitalism," a plan to support black banks and minority-owned businesses. But the catch-22 of black banking is that the very institutions needed to help communities escape the deep poverty caused by discrimination and segregation inevitably became victims of that same poverty. In this timely and eye-opening account, Baradaran challenges the long-standing belief that black communities could ever really hope to accumulate wealth in a segregated economy.



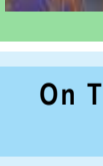
#### *Cruel Castle* by Bryony Pearce

They thought the island was the end. It was only the beginning... Having survived the horrors of Savage Island, Grady is now stuck working for Gold, the psychopath who masterminded the gruesome competition. Sent on a "team-building exercise" in a remote castle, he starts to plot his escape. Ben and Lizzy are in hiding, presumed dead after escaping the island. If they're ever to return to their families, they need to bring Gold down. So they secretly join Grady in the castle. But as the doors slam shut and the series of deadly challenges between them and freedom are revealed, it looks like history is going to repeat itself...



#### *The Vile Victorians* by Terry Deary

Discover all the foul facts about the Vile Victorians with history's most horrible headlines. All the foul facts about the Vile Victorians are ready to uncover, including: the murderers who wouldn't hang, when the first public loo was flushed, and how stag hunting took place in Paddington Station.



### On This Day in History... The Birth of Eva Ibbotson, 21<sup>st</sup> January 1925



Eva Ibbotson, originally named Maria Charlotte Michelle Weisner, was born in 1925 in Vienna, Austria. Her father was a scientist, and her mother was a playwright and active in politics. They were both Jewish and separated when Ibbotson was just two. After moving to Scotland with her father before the Nazis came into power in Austria, Ibbotson eventually ended up in England, where she would travel between her parents' homes. She did not speak English when she arrived in the UK, but quickly learned by reading voraciously. She attended a unique prep school where she recalls feeling happy for the first time, and later studied at Cambridge University, though left before graduating to start a family with her husband Alan. The couple had four children, and once they were old enough Eva returned to education, studying to become a teacher. She was a writer from a very early age, writing stories from the age of seven and submitting short stories to magazines in her youth. In 1975, Ibbotson published her first children's book, *The Great Ghost Rescue*. For twenty years, she wrote funny stories about ghosts and witches - she disliked thinking about the supernatural and created the humorous paranormal characters because she wanted to decrease her readers' fear of such things. After her husband died in 1998, there was a shift in her writing towards more serious topics. In 2001, she published middle grade historical fiction novel *Journey to the River Sea*, which won several awards and is arguably her best-known work. By the time Eva Ibbotson passed away in 2010, she had written 17 children's books and 7 books for young adults. She is buried in Newcastle upon Tyne, where she spent much of her adult life.

#### *Journey to the River Sea* by Eva Ibbotson

It is 1910 and Maia. Tragically orphaned at thirteen, has been sent from England to start a new life, with distant relatives in Manaus, hundreds of miles p in the Amazon. She is accompanied by an eccentric and mysterious governess who has secret reasons of her own making the journey. Both soon discover an exotic world bursting with new experiences in *Journey to the River Sea*.



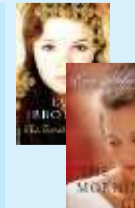
#### *Mountwood School for Ghosts* by Eva Ibbotson and Toby Ibbotson Fredegonda, Goneril, and Drusilla are Great Haggies, much more important and much rarer than regular old hags. They think that ghosts these days are decidedly lacking and that people have not been scared if ghosts for years. So, one day they decide that something needs to change- it is time for these ghosts to learn a thing or two about being scary. And what better way to teach them than to set up their own school for ghosts?

#### *The Secret of Platform 13* by Eva Ibbotson

Under Platform 13 at Kings Cross Station is hidden a quite remarkable secret. Every nine years a doorway opens to an amazing, fantastical island. Nine years ago, the island's baby prince was stolen on the streets of London. Now a rescue party, led by a wizard and an ogre, must find him, and bring him back. But the kind prince has become a spoilt rich boy, who does not believe in magic and does not want to go home. Can they rescue him before times runs out- and the doorway disappears for ever?

#### *The Morning Gift* by Eva Ibbotson

Ruth lives in the beautiful city of Vienna and is wildly in love with Heini Radik, a brilliant young pianist. But her world is about to change forever. When Hitler's forces invade, Ruth's family flees to London, but she is unable to get a passport. Quin, a young professor and friend of the family, visits Ruth and, in an effort to bring her back to London, he offers a marriage of convenience. As Ruth throws herself into her London life, Quin begins to fall desperately in love with her. Things are further complicated by the arrival of Heini...



#### *The Secret Countess* by Eva Ibbotson

Anna, a young countess, has lived in the glittering city of St Petersburg all her life in an ice-blue palace overlooking the River Neva. But when revolution tears Russia apart, her now-penniless family is forced to flee to England. Armed with an out-of-date book on housekeeping, Anna determines to become a housemaid and she finds work at the Earl of Westerholme's crumbling but magnificent mansion. The staff and the family are sure there is something not quite right about their new maid - but she soon wins them over with her warmth and dedication. Then the young Earl returns home from the war - and Anna falls hopelessly in love. But they can never be together: Rupert is engaged to the snobbish and awful Muriel - and anyway, Anna is only a servant. Or so everybody thinks...

#### *Rice & Peas and Fish & Chips* by Pauline Campbell

Pauline Campbell was brought up on Rice and Peas and Fish and Chips after her parents crossed thousands of miles, leaving the warm shores of the Caribbean, to settle in Britain. In this book Pauline will take the reader on a journey into where her generation has been. A generation of people who at their birth had no idea that the subsequent political events that were taking place throughout their young and adult lives would lead to a tsunami of inequality. It would have a rippling effect on not just them, but the generations that followed, as they along with other immigrants would become pawns in a horrifying game used to secure votes for Labour, Conservatives and right-wing groups. They would be denied the very equality any human should have regardless of the colour of their skin.



#### *Powerless #2: Reckless* by Lauren Roberts

The kingdom of Ilya is in turmoil... After surviving the Purging Trials, Ordinary-born Paedyn Gray has killed the King, and kickstarted a Resistance throughout the land. Now she's running from the one person she had wanted to run to. Kai Azer is now Ilya's Enforcer, loyal to his brother Kitt, the new King. He has vowed to find Paedyn and bring her to justice. Across the deadly Scorches, and deep into the hostile city of Dor, Kai pursues the one person he wishes he didn't have to. But in a city without Elites, the balance between the hunter and hunted shifts - and the battle between duty and desire is deadly.



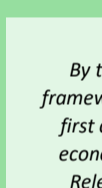
#### *When Life Gives You Mangos* by Kereen Getten

Twelve-year-old Clara lives on an island that visitors call exotic. But there's nothing exotic about it to Clara. She loves eating ripe mangos off the ground, running outside in the rain with her Papa during rainy season, and going to her secret hideout with Gaynah—even though lately she's not acting like a best friend. The only thing out of the ordinary for Clara is that something happened to her memory that made her forget everything that happened last summer after a hurricane hit. Sometimes things come back to her in drips like a tap that hasn't been turned off properly. Other times her Mama fills in the blanks...only she knows those aren't her memories and it is hard feeling like she is not like everybody else.



#### *The Magic Furnace: The Search for the Origins of Atoms* by Marcus Chown

The Magic Furnace tells of how astronomers and nuclear physicists deduced where the elements in our bodies come from is one of the greatest detective stories in the history of science. In fact, it is two stories intertwined: the story of atoms and the story of stars. Neither story can be told without the other. For the stars contain the key to unlocking the secret of atoms and the atoms the solution to the puzzle of the stars.



#### *Development as Freedom* by Amartya Sen

By the winner of the 1998 Nobel Prize in Economics, an essential and paradigm-altering framework for understanding economic development—for both rich and poor—in the twenty-first century. Freedom, Sen argues, is both the end and most efficient means of sustaining economic life and the key to securing the general welfare of the world's entire population. Releasing the idea of individual freedom from association with any particular historical, intellectual, political, or religious tradition, Sen clearly demonstrates its current applicability and possibilities. In the new global economy, where, despite unprecedented increases in overall opulence, the contemporary world denies elementary freedoms to vast numbers—perhaps even the majority of people—he concludes, it is still possible to practically and optimistically regain a sense of social accountability. *Development as Freedom* is essential reading.

### Lunar New Year



Lunar New Year, also known as Spring Festival, is a vibrant and significant festival celebrated by many cultures in Asia which marks the start of the Lunar calendar. It begins on the first day of the first lunar month (Zouyue) and concludes with a Lantern Festival on the 15<sup>th</sup> day. This year, Lunar New Year commences on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January by the Gregorian calendar. The Lunar calendar aligns with both the Moon's phases and the Earth's orbit around the Sun, and operates on a 60-year cycle, repeating every 12 years. Each Lunar year is associated with an animal from the zodiac. The animals are: rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, goat, monkey, rooster, dog, and pig (culturally, there are some variations). This coming year will be the year of the snake, which symbolises wisdom and transformation. If you look up the Lunar year in which you were born, you can find out which animal is associated with that year. [Click here](https://www.bbc.com/news/culture-50-years-on-the-road-to-wigan-pier) to read the traditional myth explaining why certain animals feature in the zodiac, and the reason for the order in which they appear. Lunar New Year celebrations vary by culture, but often include family visits, lion dances to ward off evil spirits, fireworks, feasts, and gift-giving. Traditional observances also include cleaning one's house to remove dust and bad luck, and eating auspicious foods. In many parts of Asia, it is customary for married family members to give red envelopes containing money to younger relatives. Lunar New Year was previously known as Chinese New Year, however this inaccuracy was amended in recent years when it was acknowledged that the Chinese people aren't the only ones who use the Lunar calendar, or celebrate the occasion. Lunar New Year is celebrated all over the world, with a particular prominence in Asian countries such as China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Vietnam, and Korea.

#### *Lunar New Year Love Story* by Gene Luen Yang and LeUyen Pham

Graphic novel superstars Gene Luen Yang and LeUyen Pham join forces in this heart-warming ram-com about fate, family, forgiveness, and lion dancing. Valentina Tran was named after Valentine's Day, which used to be her favourite holiday. But when Val learns the truth behind what happened with her parents and why she's being raised by a single father, she realizes true love is a lie. This is reinforced when she meets the spirit of Saint Valentine, who tells her she and her family are cursed to always be unlucky in love. Val is ready to give into her fate, until one Lunar New Year festival, where a mysterious lion dancer hands her a paper heart, and ZING. Val becomes determined to change her destiny, prove Saint Valentine wrong, and give her heart to the right person. Meanwhile, lion dancing is the only thing that has given her peace after his dad passed away. It's also what keeps him connected to his father's side of the family. Both Val and her cousin Leslie notice Val at the Lunar New Year festival, and for some inexplicable reason, Val hands Val a paper heart. But it's Leslie, with his K-Pop good looks, who starts to date Val. Val still feels this connection with Val and feels it's somehow tied to how he feels about losing his father.

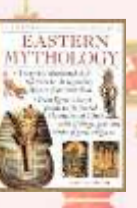


#### *Cautionary Fables and Fairy Tales Vol. 3: Asia Edition* by Shannon Campbell et al

Cautionary Fables and Fairytales: Asia Edition is a fairytale comic anthology. It's the third book in the Cautionary Fables and Fairytales series. Old Tales of Magic and Woe - Join Gene Luen Yang (Boxer & Saints), Nilah Magruder (M.F.K.), Carla Speed McNeil (Finder), Nick Dragotta (East of West), Nina Matsumoto (The Simpsons), Kel McDonald (Misfits of Avalon), Kate Ashwin (Widdershins), and more as they share with you tales of Asia!

#### *Eastern Mythology* by Rachel Storm

An A-Z guide to the mythologies and legends of the Asian continent from ancient Egypt to Japan. From the Egyptian temples to the sacred rivers of Central Asia, the encyclopedia recreates the rise of many cultures. Divided into three sections: Western Asian mythology, Southern and Central Asian mythology, and Eastern Asian mythology, this volume is a guide to the mythology of the gods and goddesses, heroes, sacred animals and places of what was once the Asian continent.



#### *Continents of the World: Asia* by Rob Bowden

This authoritative new series describes the history, landscape, culture, economy and people of this continent. This title is also packed full of fascinating facts, maps and statistics. A statistical compendium at the back provides a handy reference guide for key statistical data.

