



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

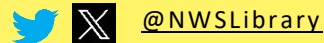
Happy reading! – Miss Mullins, Miss Walker, and Miss Henry



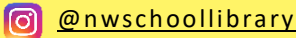
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Orpington Library's Younger Teens Reading Group

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

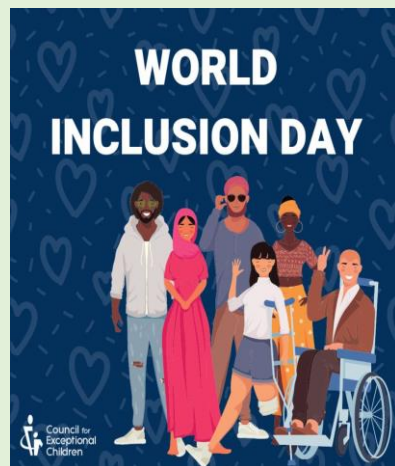
Meetings are once a month on a Monday from
5:30-6:30pm, during term time, for ages 11-
14 years

We look forward to seeing you!



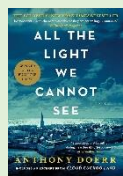
World Inclusion Day 10th October

World Inclusion Day, founded in 2020, is a global reminder of how important it is to create a world where everyone feels seen, valued, and included no matter their background, ability, or identity. This day raises awareness about the barriers that many people still face in areas like education, employment, and public life, especially those from marginalized groups such as people with disabilities, racial minorities, and LGBTQ+ individuals. Around 15% of the world's population lives with a disability, yet many still struggle to access basic services like healthcare or education. World Inclusion Day encourages action like attending diversity workshops, supporting inclusive charities, or sharing facts online using hashtags like #InclusionMatters. Inclusion isn't just the right thing to do; it makes our communities stronger, kinder, and more innovative. Even things like playing on Unified Sports teams, volunteering for disability-focused organizations, or learning about accessibility issues can help make a difference. As high school students, you have the power to lead change by standing up for fairness, celebrating diversity, and helping to build a world where no one is left out.



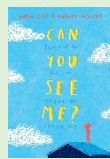
All The Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr
(recommended for older readers)

Marie-Laure has been blind since the age of six. Her father builds a perfect miniature of their Paris neighbourhood so she can memorize it by touch and navigate her way home. But when the Nazis invade, father and daughter flee with a dangerous secret. Werner is a German orphan, destined to labour in the same mine that claimed his father's life, until he discovers a knack for engineering. His talent wins him a place at a brutal military academy, but his way out of obscurity is built on suffering. At the same time, far away in a walled city by the sea, an old man discovers new worlds without ever setting foot outside his home. But all around him, impending danger closes in.



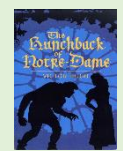
Can You See Me? #1 By Rebecca Westcott and Libby Scott

Tally isn't ashamed of being autistic – even if it complicates life sometimes, it's part of who she is. But this is her first year at Kingswood Academy, and her best friend, Layla, is the only one who knows. And while a lot of other people are uncomfortable around Tally, Layla has never been one of them. . . . until now. Something is different about sixth grade, and Tally now feels like she must act "normal." But as Tally hides her true self, she starts to wonder what "normal" means after all and whether fitting in is really what matters most.



The Hunchback of Notre-Dame by Victor Hugo

Rejected by fifteenth-century Parisian society, the hideously deformed bell-ringer Quasimodo believes he is safe under the watchful eye of his master, the Archdeacon Claude Frolo. But after Quasimodo saves the beautiful Romani girl Esmeralda from the gallows and brings her to sanctuary in the cathedral, his and Frolo's mutual desire for her puts them increasingly at odds, before compassion and cruelty clash with tragic results.



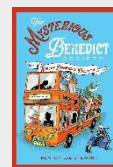
AUTUMN

“Autumn... the year's last loveliest smile.” – William Cullen Bryant

NEW

Spark #3 by Amy Kathleen Ryan (donated to us by Rowan Weeresinghe 8P1)

Teenagers Waverly and Kieran were part of the first generation born in space - and the first to fall in love. Cruelly wrenched apart when enemy ship the New Horizon attacked their own vessel the Empyrean, they have finally been reunited. Together, the young crew on board the Empyrean must chase down the other ship in the race to save their parents.



The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Prisoner's Dilemma #3 by Trenton Lee Stewart

Reynie, Kate, Sticky, and Constance are back -- but so is Mr Curtain, with another devious scheme! Can the Mysterious Benedict Society thwart Mr Curtain's plans, even while held prisoner? Join them on their adventure as they face all sorts of dilemmas, in a bid to save Stonetown.

The Black Swan: The Impact of the Highly Improbable by Nassim Taleb
(recommended for older readers)

The Impact of The Highly Improbable, the author projects randomness and uncertainty as a single idea. He puts forth a theory that promotes the idea and value of a society that stands robust in the face of negative events and manipulates the positive ones to its advantage. According to Taleb, a Black Swan event is a rare event that has large magnitude and powerful consequences owing to its unpredictability. Such an event is initially a surprise to its observer but is rationalized by him/her in retrospect. World War I, the rise of the Internet, and the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Centre are cited as examples of Black Swan events.

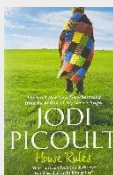


Excuse Me While I Ugly Cry by Joya Goffney

Quinn keeps lists of everything—from the days she's ugly cried, to Things That I Would Never Admit Out Loud, to all the boys she'd like to kiss. Her lists keep her sane. By writing her fears (as well as embarrassing and cringeworthy truths) on paper, she never has to face them in real life. That is, until her journal goes missing. An anonymous account posts one of her lists on Instagram for the whole school to see and blackmails her into facing seven of her greatest fears, or else her entire journal will go public.

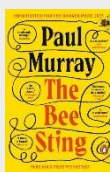
House Rules by Jodi Picoult
(recommended for older readers)

Jacob Hunt is a teen with Asperger's syndrome. He's hopeless at reading social cues or expressing himself well to others, though he is brilliant in many ways. But he has a special focus on one subject - forensic analysis. A police scanner in his room clues him in to crime scenes, and he's always showing up and telling the cops what to do. And he's usually right. But when Jacob's small hometown is rocked by a terrible murder, law enforcement comes to him. Jacob's behaviours are hallmark Asperger's, but they look a lot like guilt to the local police. Suddenly the Hunt family, who only want to fit in, are directly in the spotlight. For Jacob's mother, Emma, it's a brutal reminder of the intolerance and misunderstanding that always threaten her family. For his brother, Theo, it's another indication why nothing is normal because of Jacob.



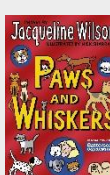
The Bee Sting by Paul Murray

The Barnes family is in trouble. Dickie's once-lucrative car business is going under - but rather than face the music, he's spending his days in the woods, building an apocalypse-proof bunker with a renegade handyman. His wife, Imelda, is selling off her jewellery on eBay and half-heartedly dodging the attentions of fast-talking cattle farmer Big Mike, while their teenage daughter Cass, formerly top of her class, seems determined to binge-drink her way to her final exams. And twelve-year-old PJ, in debt to local sociopath 'Ears' Moran, is putting the final touches to his grand plan to run away from home. The present is in meltdown, but the causes lie deep in the past. If you wanted to change this story, how far back would you have to go?



Paws and Whiskers: Animal Tales from Various Authors by Jacqueline Wilson

Includes a brand new story by Jacqueline herself, Leonie's Pet Cat, as well as extracts from treasured classics such as The Hundred and One Dalmatians by Dodie Smith and Gobbolino the Witch's Cat by Ursula Moray Williams, and from modern favourite writers such as Anne Fine and Patrick Ness. The book also features personal new pieces from many authors about their own treasured pets, with contributions from Michael Morpurgo, Philip Pullman, Malorie Blackman and more.



The Shapeshifter: Going to Ground by Ali Sparkes

When Dax receives an urgent call, he knows he must drop everything and race to the aid of his friends. But that's not as easy as it sounds. Strange things are happening—unbelievable occurrences that seem to be following Dax and his friends wherever they go. And that's not all that's after them . . . Government agents are stalking their every move—tracking them down. The very people who are supposed to be protecting them seem to be the biggest threat. Who can they trust? Where should they run?

Black History Month 2025

Black British films and media play a vital role in celebrating and reflecting the diverse experiences of the Black community in the UK, particularly during Black History Month. From early pioneers like Horace Ové, who directed *Pressure* (1976), the first Black British feature film, to contemporary creators like Michaela Coel and Steve McQueen, Black British storytellers have used film and media to challenge stereotypes, confront social injustices, and amplify underrepresented voices. These works not only highlight the struggles faced by Black Britons, from racism and inequality to cultural identity, but also celebrate resilience, creativity, and community. As the media landscape continues to evolve, the contributions of Black British creatives remain essential in shaping a more inclusive and honest cultural narrative in Britain. Students should watch Black British films because they offer a powerful and necessary lens through which to understand the rich, complex history and lived experiences of Black communities in the UK. These films provide perspectives that are often missing from mainstream narratives, exploring themes such as identity, racism, migration, generational struggles, and cultural pride. By engaging with stories created by Black British filmmakers, students gain a deeper appreciation of how race, class, and culture intersect in Britain's past and present. Watching films like *Rocks* by Sarah Gavron or *Blue Story* by Rapman helps students move beyond textbooks and experience real, emotional storytelling that reflects the lives of people who have often been marginalised or misrepresented. These films also spark critical thinking and meaningful discussion around issues of social justice, representation, and equality. For students of all backgrounds, Black British cinema is not just educational—it is essential viewing for anyone who wants to better understand the diverse society they are part of and contribute to a more informed and empathetic future. Here are some more suggestions on what to watch below.

The Girl with All the Gifts directed by Colm McCarthy

In a dystopian future where humankind is ravaged by an illness, a military base houses children who still feel emotions. When the base is attacked, one of them escapes with a teacher and scientist. This is also a book in our library!



Supacell created by Rapman

In South London, a group of normal people suddenly develop superpowers, and the only apparent connection between them is that they are all Black; as they deal with the impact of their powers on their daily lives, one man must bring them together.



Queenie written by Candice Carty-Williams

After a messy breakup with her long-term boyfriend, Queenie seeks comfort in all the wrong places and begins to realize she must face the past head-on before she can rebuild. This is also a book in our library!



Champion created by Candice Carty-Williams

An eight-part musical series featuring the Champion siblings, Bosco and Vita, who risk a musical rivalry, the ramifications and fallout of which could drive their family apart in their quest for musical stardom. Rapper Bosco attempts a comeback, while his dutiful sister discovers that her own talent could take her to the top. It's Champion versus Champion in a love letter to South London rap.

Small Axe (5 films) directed by Steve McQueen

With the five films that make up his *Small Axe* anthology (*Mangrove*; *Lovers Rock*; *Red, White and Blue*; *Alex Wheatle*; and *Education*), director Steve McQueen offers a richly evocative panorama of West Indian life in London from the late 1960s through the early '80s—a time defined for the community by the terror of police violence, the empowering awakening of political consciousness, and the ecstatic escape of a vibrant reggae scene. Ranging in tone from tenderly impressionistic to devastatingly clear-eyed, these powerfully performed portraits of Black resistance, joy, creativity, and collective action—all sumptuously shot by Shabier Kirchner—form a revolutionary counterhistory of mid-twentieth-century Britain at a transformational moment.

On This Day R.L. Stine was Born... 8th October 1943



R.L. Stine, born on October 8, 1943, in Columbus, Ohio, is one of the most successful and well-known children's authors in the world, especially famous for writing scary stories that are fun and thrilling for young readers. He began writing at a young age, using a typewriter he found in his attic when he was just nine years old. After graduating from Ohio State University in 1965, where he was the editor of the campus humour magazine *The Sundial*, Stine moved to New York City to pursue a career in writing and publishing. He worked for 16 years at Scholastic, creating and editing children's magazines like *Bananas*, which focused on humour for older kids and teens. During this time, he wrote over 40 funny books for children under the name "Jovial Bob Stine." Stine's career took a major turn when he published his first horror novel, *Blind Date*, in 1986. The book's success encouraged him

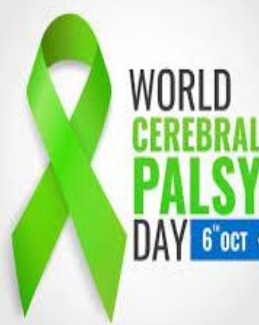
to keep writing scary stories, and in 1989 he launched the *Fear Street* series for teens, beginning with *The New Girl*. In 1992, he created the *Goosebumps* series, which became a global phenomenon among younger kids. The first book, *Welcome to Dead House*, introduced young readers to spooky tales filled with mystery, suspense, and surprise endings—what Stine calls "safe scares." The series became so popular it was adapted into a television show in the 1990s and later into two major movies, *Goosebumps* (2015) and *Goosebumps 2* (2018). He expanded his universe with spin-off series like *Give Yourself Goosebumps*, a choose-your-own-adventure style series, and *Goosebumps Horrorland* and *Most Wanted*, which brought back fan-favourite villains like Slappy the evil dummy. He also continued the *Fear Street* series with new titles such as *Return to Fear Street*, and some of these stories were even adapted into Netflix films. Other works by Stine include the *Rotten School* series, *The Nightmare Room*, and contributions to the *Point Horror* series. He even wrote scary books for adults, like *Superstitious* and *Red Rain*, and had some of his stories turned into shows like *The Haunting Hour*. Today, Stine is called the "Stephen King of children's literature," and by the 2010s, he had sold over 400 million books worldwide. Despite writing terrifying stories, Stine is known for his humour and often says that making kids laugh and giving them a fun scare is what he loves most. His books continue to be read by new generations of readers, proving that even after decades of writing, R.L. Stine's spooky stories never go out of style.

Fear Street: Killer's Kiss by R.L. Stine

Fear Street – Where your worst nightmare lives... Delia and Karina are always competing. From getting the best grades, to being the most popular, to dating the cutest guys – they always fight for the top spot. This year, they both want Vincent – the hottest guy at Shadyside High. Karina's determined to get Vince. She'll do whatever it takes. And if she can't have him, she'll make sure no one else can either.... Including Delia.



Bringing Awareness to World Cerebral Palsy Day 6th October



World Cerebral Palsy Day is celebrated every year on October 6, and it's an important time to recognize and support the 18 million people around the world living with cerebral palsy. For students, this day is a great opportunity to learn about what cerebral palsy is, how it affects people, and why inclusion matters. People with cerebral palsy work in all kinds of jobs and make valuable contributions to our communities every day. By understanding cerebral palsy, we can help spread awareness, fight stereotypes, and support research for better treatments. Did you know that CP is the most common motor disability in children, and that many people with cerebral palsy live with daily pain or have trouble speaking? But despite these challenges, people with CP continue to inspire and achieve amazing things. On World Cerebral Palsy Day, you can show your support by wearing green, joining local events like fun runs, or simply posting on social media using hashtags like #WorldCerebralPalsyDay. Even small actions—like learning the facts or giving a caregiver a break—can make a big difference in helping to build a more inclusive and understanding world.

I Have No Secrets by Penny Joelson

Fourteen-year-old Jemma has severe cerebral palsy. Unable to communicate or move, she relies on her family and carer for everything. She has a sharp brain and inquisitive nature and knows all sorts of things about everyone. But when she is confronted with this terrible secret, she is utterly powerless to do anything. Though that might be about to change...



Truly, Wildly, Deeply by Jenny McLachlan

Annie is starting college. She can't wait. No more school, no more uniform, and no one telling her what to do. It's the start of a new adventure and Annie's not going to let anyone or anything get in the way of that. Freedom matters to Annie. She has cerebral palsy and she's had to fight hard to get the world to see her for who she truly is. Then she meets Fab. He's six foot two, Polish and a passionate believer in...well, just about everything, but most of all Annie and good old fashioned romance. The moment Fab sees Annie, he's wildly drawn to her and declares she must be his girl. Annie's horrified. She doesn't want to be anyone's anything, especially if it means losing her independence.



You, Me, and Our Heartstrings by Melissa See

Noah, a cello prodigy from a long line of musicians, wants to stick to tradition. Daisy, a fiercely independent disabled violinist, is used to fighting for what she wants and likes to take risks. But the two surprise each other when they play. No one seems to care about their talent or their music at all. People have rewritten their love story into one where Daisy is an inspiration for overcoming her cerebral palsy and Noah is a saint for seeing past it. Daisy is tired of her disability being the only thing people see about her, and all the attention sends Noah's anxiety disorder into high speed. They can see their dream of going to Juilliard coming closer than it's ever been before. But is the cost suddenly too high?

