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



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"Everything good, everything magical happens between the months of June and August." – Jenny Han, *The Summer I Turned Pretty*

NEW

Beasts of Ruin #2 by Ayana Gray

Koffi has saved her city and the boy she loves, but at a terrible price. Now a servant to the cunning god of death, she must use her newfound power to further his continental conquest or risk the safety of her home and loved ones. As she reluctantly learns to survive amidst unexpected friends and foes, she will also have to choose between the life—and love—she once had, or the one she could have, if she truly embraces her dangerous gifts. Koffi and Ekon—separated by land, sea, and gods—will have to risk everything to reunite again. But the longer they're kept apart, the more each of their loyalties are tested. Soon, both may have to reckon with changing hearts—and maybe, changing destinies.

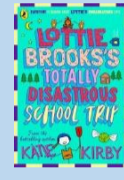


Heartbreak Boys by Simon James Green

Faking the best summer ever is a lot harder than it looks. At the start of summer, Jack and Nate find themselves dumped as their respective exes, Dylan and Tariq, start up a new relationship together. Not only that, their exes start posting pics on social media, showing the whole world how fabulous their new life together is! Jack and Nate are reeling. Not to be outdone, they decide to create their own 'highlights reel' and show their exes that they're having an even better time. But between the depressing motorway service station motels, damp campsites, and an ultimate showdown with the exes, something epic really is happening: Jack and Nate are learning to get over their heartache and open themselves up to new possibilities for love.

Lottie Brook's Totally Disastrous School Trip by Katie Kirby

Summer is over and Lottie's heading off to Camp Firefly on a residential school trip. A whole five days away from her embarrassing family. But the trip soon turns into a total disaster. The other girls staying at the camp are mega-mean, best friend Jess is spending all her time with new girl Isha, and Lottie still isn't sure how she feels about dreamy Daniel! Who knew a school trip could cause so much drama?!



Invincible Vol. 1 by Robert Kirkman

Mark Grayson is just like most everyone else his age. Except his father is the most powerful superhero on the planet - Omni-Man. When Mark develops powers of his own, it's a dream come true. But living up to his father's legacy is only the beginning of Mark's problems.

Keep your Friends Close by Cynthis Murphy

Chloe Roberts is about to be named Morton Academy's next Head Girl and the leader of the school's secret society, Jewel and Bone. But then her best friend, Nikhita Patel, betrays her, and life comes crashing down. Things take a darker turn when Chloe finds the Book of Crime and Punishment - a record of every misdeed committed by Morton students and the fitting penalty for each. And soon, entries in the book start to match up with murders of Jewel and Bone members. Can Chloe get to the bottom of this twisted game before she's next on the killer's list?



Stranger Things: Heroes and Monsters by Rana Tahir

A thrilling Choose your own adventure book based on Netflix's Stranger Things! Are you ready to journey to the dark side of Hawkins, Indiana? You are a young reporter preparing for a conference in a small Indiana town called Hawkins, but this simple trip quickly grows dangerous. Can you help Eleven, Dustin, Max, Lucas, and their friends as they explore Pennhurst Asylum, the creepy old Creel house, and possibly even the Upside Down. The decisions you make will decide the fates of the characters and lead to unexpected, thrilling, and even deadly outcomes.

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!

22nd June: Pride Event at Orpington Library

As part of PRIDE Month celebrations, Orpington Library will be hosting a special event that highlights the work of two inspiring children's authors, Mama G and Shireen Lalji, who are both members of the GLL Literary Foundation. The session will give young children and their families the opportunity to enjoy picture books that celebrate diversity, inclusion, kindness, and self-expression, while also taking part in fun and engaging activities linked to the stories. Mama G is a well-known storyteller, author, and entertainer who is passionate about sharing stories that encourage children to be themselves and celebrate what makes them unique. Through her books and performances, she promotes messages of acceptance, confidence, and respect for others, helping children understand the importance of embracing differences. Shireen Lalji is an author whose work focuses on creating inclusive stories that reflect a wide range of cultures, experiences, and identities. Her books help children see themselves represented in literature while also learning about the lives and experiences of others, encouraging empathy, understanding, and curiosity about the world around them. The event forms part of the GLL Literary Foundation's ongoing mission to support emerging children's authors, inspire a love of reading, and champion the vital role of public libraries within local communities.

Launched just over a year ago, the Foundation has already made a significant impact by supporting 20 talented authors and enabling them to deliver more than 60 events across Bromley, Greenwich, Wandsworth, Dudley, and Lincolnshire. These events have engaged over 3,000 children and more than 500 adults, helping to connect readers directly with authors and making books more accessible and exciting for young audiences. By featuring authors such as Mama G and Shireen Lalji, the Foundation helps ensure that children have access to inclusive literature that reflects different backgrounds, families, and experiences. This PRIDE Month event is therefore not only a celebration of reading but also an opportunity to promote acceptance, representation, and understanding. Through storytelling, creativity, and discussion, children can learn valuable lessons about respecting others, appreciating diversity, and feeling confident in their own identities, making the event both educational and enjoyable for everyone involved.

From Prejudice to Pride: A History of the LGBTQ+ Movement by Amy Lame

Follow LGBTQ+ history from ancient civilisations to the present-day and learn about key events including the trial of Oscar Wilde, the Stonewall riots, the AIDS crisis, same-sex marriage and changing laws that have impacted on LGBTQ+ life. Gain insight into the shifting attitudes that have challenged lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and the experiences that help us understand what it means to be LGBTQ+ today.



On This Day... Salman Rushdie was born 19th June 1947

Salman Rushdie is one of the most influential and controversial writers of modern literature. Born in Mumbai, India, on 19 June 1947, he later moved to England, where he attended Rugby School and studied history at the University of Cambridge. Before becoming a full-time author, Rushdie worked as an advertising copywriter in London during the 1970s. He achieved international fame with his award-winning novel *Midnight's Children*, a magical realist story that explores the history of modern India through imaginative storytelling, humour, and symbolism. The novel was highly praised by critics and won the prestigious Booker Prize in 1981, later being recognised as one of the greatest Booker Prize-winning books of all time. Rushdie is known for blending history, politics, culture, mythology, and fantasy in his novels, often using magical realism to examine important social and philosophical issues. His works frequently explore themes such as identity, migration, religion, freedom, and the relationship between the past and present. However, his career became the centre of an international controversy following the publication of *The Satanic Verses* in 1988. The controversy made him a major figure in global debates about freedom of speech, censorship, and the rights of writers to express controversial ideas. Despite this, Rushdie continued to write and publish successful books with imaginative plots. Today, Salman Rushdie is regarded as one of the most important contemporary authors, admired for his creativity, resilience, and commitment to literary freedom. His life and work demonstrate the power of storytelling to explore complex issues, challenge ideas, and encourage readers to think critically about the world around them.



Midnight's Children by Salman Rushdie

Saleem Sinai is born at the stroke of midnight on August 15, 1947, the very moment of India's independence. Greeted by fireworks displays, cheering crowds, and Prime Minister Nehru himself, Saleem grows up to learn the ominous consequences of this coincidence. His every act is mirrored and magnified in events that sway the course of national affairs; his health and well-being are inextricably bound to those of his nation; his life is inseparable, at times indistinguishable, from the history of his country. Perhaps most remarkable are the telepathic powers linking him with India's 1,000 other "midnight's children," all born in that initial hour and endowed with magical gifts.



On This Day... Andy Weir was born 16th June 1972

Andy Weir is a bestselling American science-fiction author whose novels have inspired readers around the world through their combination of exciting adventures, scientific accuracy, and creative problem-solving. Born in California in 1972, Weir developed a passion for science, computers, and space exploration from a young age. He began programming computers as a teenager and later worked as a software engineer before pursuing his dream of becoming a full-time writer. Although he wrote stories for many years, his breakthrough came with *The Martian*, a novel about astronaut Mark Watney, who becomes stranded alone on Mars after his crew mistakenly believes he has died. Using his knowledge of science, engineering, and determination, Watney must find ways to survive until help can arrive. The novel was praised for its realistic portrayal of space travel and scientific problem-solving, becoming an international bestseller and later a major Hollywood film starring Matt Damon. Following the success of *The Martian*, Weir continued to explore themes of science, technology, and human resilience in his later novels. His book *Artemis* is set in the first city on the Moon and follows a young woman who becomes involved in a dangerous conspiracy, while *Project Hail Mary* tells the story of a lone astronaut on a mission to save humanity from an extinction-level threat. Like *The Martian*, these novels combine suspense, humour, and scientific ideas, making complex topics accessible and enjoyable for a wide audience. One of the reasons Weir's work is so popular is that he presents science as exciting and relevant, showing how curiosity, creativity, and logical thinking can help people overcome challenges. His stories often feature ordinary individuals facing extraordinary situations, demonstrating the importance of perseverance, teamwork, and innovation. Through his imaginative storytelling and commitment to scientific accuracy, Weir has become one of the most influential science-fiction authors of the 21st century, inspiring readers to dream about the future, explore the possibilities of space travel, and appreciate the power of human ingenuity. To find out more, click [here](https://www.andymweir.com).



Project Hail Mary by Andy Weir

Ryland Grace is the sole survivor on a desperate, last-chance mission - and if he fails, humanity and the earth itself will perish. Except that right now, he doesn't know that. He can't even remember his own name, let alone the nature of his assignment or how to complete it. All he knows is that he's been asleep for a very, very long time. And he's just been awakened to find himself millions of miles from home, with nothing but two corpses for company. His crewmates dead, his memories fuzzily returning, Ryland realizes that an impossible task now confronts him. Hurling through space on this tiny ship, it's up to him to puzzle out an impossible scientific mystery-and conquer an extinction-level threat to our species. And with the clock ticking down and the nearest human being light-years away, he's got to do it all alone.

I'm stranded on Mars. I have no way to communicate with Earth. I'm in a Habitat designed to last 31 days. If the Oxygenator breaks down, I'll suffocate. If the Water Reclaimer breaks down, I'll die of thirst. If the Hab breaches, I'll just kind of explode. If none of those things happen, I'll eventually run out of food and starve to death.

Jazz Bashara is a criminal. Well, sort of. Life on Artemis, the first and only city on the moon, is tough if you're not a rich tourist or an eccentric billionaire. So smuggling in the occasional harmless bit of contraband barely counts, right? Not when you've got debts to pay and your job as a porter barely covers the rent.



21st June: World Humanist Day

World Humanist Day is celebrated every year on June 21, which is also the date of the June solstice. The day brings together humanists from around the world through conferences, workshops, community events, picnics, and celebrations to promote the values of humanism and raise awareness about its principles. Humanism began during the Renaissance in 14th-century Italy as an educational and literary movement that encouraged learning, critical thinking, and the development of human potential. Over time, it evolved into a broader philosophy focused on human welfare, happiness, ethical behaviour, and rational decision-making. Humanists believe that people can use reason, evidence, and compassion to solve problems and make moral choices, rather than relying on religious authority. Today, the movement is recognised internationally and serves as an opportunity to educate the public about humanism, challenge misconceptions, and encourage discussions about ethics, science, human rights, and social responsibility. Humanists are known for valuing logical thinking, justice, compassion, and respect for others. Interesting facts about humanism include the existence of millions of humanists worldwide, the adoption of the "Happy Human" symbol in 1965, and the growing popularity of humanist weddings in several countries. World Humanist Day is important because it promotes understanding, encourages people to think critically about the world around them, and highlights the belief that humans can work together to create a fairer, more compassionate, and more responsible society.



Being Human: Fulfilling Genetic and Spiritual Potential by Peter Vardy

This book proposes the notion that the task of ethics is to help people become fully human and investigates how this is to be achieved in today's world.

Ten Theories of Human Nature by Leslie Stevenson

Lucid and accessible, Ten Theories of Human Nature, Fifth Edition, compresses into a small space the essence of such ancient traditions as Confucianism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and the Old and New Testaments as well as the theories of Plato, Aristotle, Immanuel Kant, Karl Marx, and Jean-Paul Sartre. The authors juxtapose the ideas of these and other thinkers and traditions in a way that helps readers understand how humanity has struggled to comprehend its nature. To encourage readers to think critically for themselves and to underscore the similarities and differences between the many theories, the book examines each one on four points—the nature of the universe, the nature of humanity, the diagnosis of the ills of humanity, and the proposed cure for these problems. Ideal for introductory courses in human nature, philosophy, religious studies, and intellectual history.



15th June: Learning Disability Week

Learning Disability Week is celebrated every year during the third week of June, and in 2026 it takes place from June 15 to 21. The week is dedicated to raising awareness, promoting understanding, and supporting people with learning disabilities. Many individuals with learning disabilities face challenges that go beyond schoolwork, including low self-esteem, social exclusion, bullying, and mental health difficulties. Importantly, having a learning disability does not mean a person is less intelligent; it simply means they learn differently and may need additional support, specialized teaching, or accommodations to reach their full potential. Since then, important laws such as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) have helped protect the rights of people with disabilities and ensure access to education and equal opportunities. Throughout history, researchers have also identified different types of learning disabilities, including dyslexia, which affects reading; dyscalculia, which affects mathematical skills; dysgraphia, which affects writing; dyspraxia, which affects coordination and movement; and ADHD, which can impact attention, focus, and self-control. Learning Disability Week encourages people to get involved by volunteering, advocating for equal rights, sharing information, and learning how to better support those affected. The week is important because it helps people with learning disabilities feel recognized and valued, while also educating students, teachers, parents, and communities about the unique challenges they face. By increasing awareness and understanding, society can become more inclusive, supportive, and respectful, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to succeed regardless of how they learn.



All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

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.

Wonder by R.J. Palacio

August (Auggie) Pullman was born with a facial deformity that prevented him from going to a mainstream school—until now. He's about to start 5th grade at Beecher Prep, and if you've ever been the new kid then you know how hard that can be. The thing is Auggie's just an ordinary kid, with an extraordinary face. But can he convince his new classmates that he's just like them, despite appearances?

