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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](mailto: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!



## On This Day... John Milton was Born 9<sup>th</sup> December, 1608

John Milton was born on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 1608, in London, and he grew up to become one of the most important poets and thinkers in English history, best known for his epic poem *Paradise Lost*. From a young age, Milton was highly educated, studying at St. Paul's School and later at Christ's College, Cambridge, where he developed his deep knowledge of languages, religion, and literature. During his lifetime, he wrote powerful poetry such as "Lycidas" and "Il Penseroso," but he was also heavily involved in politics, supporting the Puritan cause during the English Civil War and even working as a government official under Oliver Cromwell. Milton wrote many essays and pamphlets defending freedom of speech, the right to divorce, and other bold ideas that were controversial at the time. Later in life, after losing his eyesight, he dictated *Paradise Lost*, which retells the story of the Fall of Man and explores huge themes like free will, obedience, and the nature of



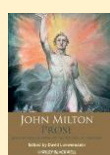
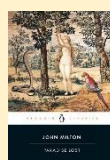
obedience, and the nature of good and evil. He followed it with *Paradise Regained* and *Samson Agonistes*, further proving his genius despite his blindness. Milton died on November 8, 1674, but his legacy has lived on for centuries; his works continue to shape literature, religious thought, and the way we understand heroism, rebellion, and the human struggle for meaning.

### *Paradise Lost* by John Milton

*John Milton's Paradise Lost* is one of the greatest epic poems in the English language. It tells the story of the Fall of Man, a tale of immense drama and excitement, of rebellion and treachery, of innocence pitted against corruption, in which God and Satan fight a bitter battle for control of mankind's destiny. The struggle rages across three worlds - heaven, hell, and earth - as Satan and his band of rebel angels plot their revenge against God. At the centre of the conflict are Adam and Eve, who are motivated by all too human temptations but whose ultimate downfall is unyielding love.

### *The Prose Writing of John Milton* by F.M. Burton

It is the aim of this volume to present a selection from Milton's Prose Writings, comprising some of the author's best thoughts, and setting forth as clearly as possible Milton himself, showing impartially his merits and faults as a writer and as a man. It will not have been prepared in vain, if it shall serve to make more widely known the Treasures of truth and beauty in these Prose Writings, and the true greatness of soul in their much abused author. And may the principles of civil and religious freedom, here so eloquently defended, triumph everywhere.



## Have you Made Your Christmas Cards Yet?

Christmas Card Day is celebrated on the 9<sup>th</sup> December which shows the history of a holiday tradition that most people now take for granted, but it began as a creative solution to a 19th-century problem. In 1843, Sir Henry Cole, a British civil servant, teamed up with his artist friend John Horsley to design the first modern Christmas card to encourage people to use the brand-new postal system in Britain. Their card cost one shilling—about 24 pence in today's U.K.'s money—and thanks to new printing technology, the idea spread quickly across Britain by the 1860s. Christmas cards arrived in the United States around the same time, but

they were too expensive to catch on until 1875, when a German printer named Louis Prang began mass-producing them and lowering the cost. The tradition became truly widespread in the U.S. in the early 1900s after the Hall brothers founded Hallmark and turned card-sending into a national habit. Today, whether people order polished family photo cards or hand-make them with craft supplies, Christmas cards remain a cheerful way to reconnect, share updates, and spread a little holiday joy.

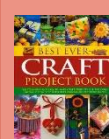


### *Get Creative with Paper* by Paul Jackson

Why not decorate paper for brilliant personal stationery, make beautiful gift wraps, labels and tags, and create fabulous paper decorations for Christmas and other celebrations.

### *Best Ever Craft Project Book* by Lucy Painter

300 creative, colourful and stylish projects for the home, designed by contemporary craft artists. Includes papercrafts, stencilling, embroidery, patchwork, salt dough, wirework, decorating glass, cross stitch, printing, papier-mache and much much more. Practical, easy-to-follow step-by-step instructions for effective results every time.



## Let's Celebrate Dewey Decimal Day!

Dewey Decimal System Day celebrates Melvil Dewey, born on December 10, 1851, who invented the famous system used to organise non-fiction books in libraries. Dewey came up with his idea when he was just 21 and working at Amherst College, and he published the first version of the Dewey Decimal System in 1876. Today, it's the most widely used library classification method in the world, used in more than 200,000 libraries across 135 countries. The system sorts books into ten main number groups, from 000 for general

works to 900 for history and geography, and each of those groups is broken down into smaller sections to make finding books even easier. The repeating number patterns help people remember where topics belong, almost like a built-in map of the library. Even though more than 100 years have passed since its creation—and even though digital catalogues have replaced old card catalogues—the system is still essential, especially since people check out millions of items every year. Fun fact: Dewey didn't just organise books; he also helped create the index cards and filing cabinets that libraries used for decades to keep everything in order.

### *Dewey: The Small-Town Library-Cat who Touched the World* by Vicki Myron

When he was just a few weeks old, Dewey Readmore Books was shoved through the book returns slot of his local library in a sleepy town. Starving, terrified and bruised after being battered by falling books, Dewey curled up into the arms of the library director Vicky. Vicky was a single mother who had escaped a violent husband and was struggling to bring up her little girl Jodi alone. Vicky fell in love with the little bundle of fur in her arms and campaigned to allow Dewey to stay and become the library cat.

### *Information Skills: Finding and Using the Right Resources* by Jonathan Grix

Written by an academic and a librarian, this book is dedicated to helping students find and use a variety of resources, both print and online. It includes guidance on how to carry out a literature review as well as the skills needed for finding and evaluating information, with advice on referencing correctly and avoiding plagiarism.

### THE DEWEY DECIMAL SYSTEM



## On This Day... Shirley Jackson was Born 14<sup>th</sup> December, 1916

Shirley Jackson was born on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 1916, in San Francisco, and grew up to become one of America's most influential writers of psychological horror and dark social commentary. From a young age, she loved reading and writing, and she later studied at Syracuse University, where she met her husband and began publishing her early work. Jackson gained national attention in 1948 with her famous short story "The Lottery," a chilling tale about conformity and cruelty that shocked readers and made her a major literary figure. Throughout her life, she wrote many novels and stories that blended everyday life with eerie twists, including *The Haunting of Hill House*, considered one of the greatest haunted house novels ever written, and *We Have Always Lived in the Castle*, a haunting and poetic story about isolation and family secrets. She also wrote humorous memoir-style books about raising her children, showing a lighter side to her personality.



Jackson's writing often explored themes like fear, alienation, superstition, and the darker parts of human nature, and her ability to mix ordinary settings with unsettling tension made her work timeless. Even though she died relatively young in 1965, her influence on modern horror, psychological fiction, and feminist literature continues to inspire writers and readers around the world.

### *The Haunting of Hill House* by Shirley Jackson

Alone in the world, Eleanor is delighted to take up Dr Montague's invitation to spend a summer in the mysterious Hill House. Joining them are Theodora, an artistic 'sensitive', and Luke, heir to the house. But what begins as a light-hearted experiment is swiftly proven to be a trip into their darkest nightmares, and an investigation that one of their number may not survive.

### *We Have Always Lived in the Castle* by Shirley Jackson

Merricat Blackwood lives on the family estate with her sister Constance and her Uncle Julian. Not long ago there were seven Blackwoods—until a fatal dose of arsenic found its way into the sugar bowl one terrible night. Acquitted of the murders, Constance has returned home, where Merricat protects her from the curiosity and hostility of the villagers. Their days pass in happy isolation until cousin Charles appears. Only Merricat can see the danger, and she must act swiftly to keep Constance from his grasp.



## UNICEF Day of Change



UNICEF Day is observed annually on December 11th to commemorate the establishment of one of the largest humanitarian organizations in the world. It has celebrated its presence in 192 countries and territories worldwide in the 75 years since its founding.

Suffering has always been a part of human history, with wars, famines, and conflicts harming ordinary people the most, especially children, and even though today's world is more peaceful than the past, the damage left behind still needs healing. After World War II, the United Nations created UNICEF on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 1946, to give emergency help to children affected by the war, no matter what country they were from. At first, UNICEF shared the UN's logo, but when the UN decided in 1953 to make UNICEF's mission permanent, the organisation expanded its goals and updated its identity to reflect its growing work. Over the decades, UNICEF has grown into a global organisation operating in more than 190 countries, working to improve children's lives through better healthcare, education, nutrition, and access to clean water.

Their efforts have helped lower infant mortality and supported millions of safe births, along with providing schooling and necessities to kids living in dangerous or remote areas. Today, UNICEF remains a major force dedicated to protecting and improving the lives of children around the world.

### *Farming, Food and Famine* by M.E. Witherick

The topic books are ideal for individual usage as the content is detailed and concise. Valuable study for students with exam practice, as well as practice with the decision-making/enquiry approaches in the context of real places. Question banks focus on the development of core skills and will help students construct quality extended essays. Interest and motivation will be increased by the variety of approaches adopted by the various authors, all of whom are experienced educationalists.

### *The Globalisation of World Politics* by John Baylis and Steve Smith

A comprehensive introduction to international relations, it is ideally suited to students coming to the subject for the first time. It provides a coherent, accessible, and lively account of the globalization of world politics.

### *International Law: A Very Short Introduction* by Vaughan Lowe

This Very Short Introduction explains what international law is, what its role in international society is, and how it operates. Dispelling many of the myths surrounding the topic, Vaughan Lowe clearly outlines what international law can and cannot do and what it is and what it isn't doing to make the world a better place.

