



SPRING

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



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World Book Day Competition Winners

Thank you all for taking part in our World Book Day activities on Wednesday last week - it was a great atmosphere in the library, and we heard lots of book-related conversations going on. The winners of the competitions were:
Jellybean Competition: The number of jellybeans in the jar was 426. The winning guess came from Shreya in 7G who was just one away, with a guess of 425.
Match the Staff Member to the Last Book They Read: The winner of this competition was Aria in 9F who correctly matched 18 staff members to the last book they read. You can find the correct answers below.

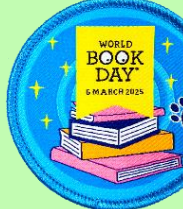
Match the Staff Member to the Last Book They Read – Answers

Ms Dalton: *The Education of an Idealist* by Samantha Power
Mrs Buick: *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus
Mrs Rushton: *Diamond Queen* by Andrew Marr
Mr Norris: *Career of Evil* by Robert Galbraith
Mr Williams: *SAS Rogue Heroes* by Ben Macintyre
Mrs Chidgey: *A Language of Dragons* by S.F. Williamson
Dr Neman: *Natives* by Akala
Mrs Lebreuilly: *A Short History of the First World War* by Gary Sheffield
Mrs Dhar: *Code Name God* by Mani Bhowmik
Mr Botley: *The Plague* by Albert Camus
Ms Karmock-Golds: *Lilith* by Nikki Marmery
Miss Olaleye: *Atomic Habits* by James Clear
Miss Mullins: *Strange Sally Diamond* by Liz Nugent
Miss Henry: *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley

Miss Farley: *The Rabbit Hutch* by Tess Guntly
Mr Campbell: *Old Soul* by Susan Barker
Mrs Smith: *Dracula* by Bram Stoker
Dr Beaven: *East of Eden* by John Steinbeck
Mr Burn: *The Last Overland* by Alex Bescoby
Mr Boutall: *More Than Matter?* By Keith Ward
Mr Lewis: *The Ruin of All Witches* by Malcolm Gaskill
Ms Boyle: *Crypt* by Alice Roberts
Mrs Brazier: *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver
Mr Andrews: *Making it So* by Patrick Stewart
Mr Deane: *The Wolves of the Calla* by Stephen King
Miss Viggers: *Orbital* by Samantha Harvey
Mrs Eason: *The Night She Disappeared* by Lisa Jewell
Mrs Valley: *Fire and Ice* by Natalie Starkey
Mrs Willes: *Cicely Saunders – The Founder of the Modern Hospice Movement* by Shirley du Boulay
Mr Hunt: *Sourcery* by Terry Pratchett



Shreya, 7G with her prize.



Jacqueline Wilson Announces Second Adult Sequel

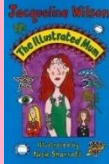


Jacqueline Wilson's upcoming novel *Picture Imperfect*, set to be released on August 28th, is a sequel to her beloved middle grade book *The Illustrated Mum*. The story follows the original novel's protagonists, sisters Dolphin and Star, as they navigate their complicated lives years after the conclusion of *The Illustrated Mum*. Dolphin, now 33, is living in a small flat and working in a tattoo shop while still dealing with the challenges of her mother Marigold's bipolar disorder. She struggles with her feelings for two very different men and is uncertain about her future. Meanwhile, Star is successful doctor in Scotland and goes on to offer Dolphin a chance to start afresh with her family. Jacqueline Wilson is well-known for her children's stories and is celebrated for addressing tough issues, such as mental health, in her books.

The author has said in recent interviews that she's excited to revisit *The Illustrated Mum*'s characters as they hold a very special place in her heart. This will be Wilson's second adult novel in recent years, following *Think Again* which was released in 2024 and focused on characters from her young adult series, *Girls in Love*. Earlier this month, Wilson unveiled a tattoo-covered statue of herself to celebrate the new book, which will be displayed in Brighton Waterstones before touring the UK later in the year.

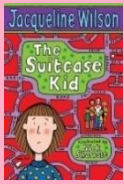
The Illustrated Mum by Jacqueline Wilson

Dolphin adores her mum - she's beautiful and vibrant. She's covered in colourful tattoos and with her bright hair and amazing clothes, Marigold stands out, wherever she goes. But her sister, Star, feels differently. Marigold may look great, but living with her unpredictable, fiery moods can be hard. After Marigold has a breakdown, Dolphin starts to wonder...is she the right person to be looking after her?



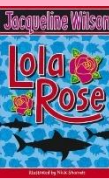
The Suitcase Kid by Jacqueline Wilson

Andrea West's parents are divorced, and her tiny stuffed rabbit, Radish, seems her only comfort in the world. She must leave the home she loves with the mulberry tree in the front yard and deal with parents who still fight, stepparents, stepsiblings, two different bedrooms (neither of which is really hers), loneliness, and an acute longing for the past. Her grades sink, her friends drift away, and she's not quite sure how to fix any of it. Eventually, though, a new equilibrium begins to settle on her life. Honest and true-to-life, Andy's story shows that dealing with divorce is never easy.



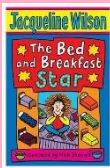
Lola Rose by Jacqueline Wilson

When life with Jayni's violent-tempered father becomes too frightening to cope with, Jayni, her mum and her little brother Kenny are forced to escape in the middle of the night. Slipping out of the house unseen, travelling up to London by train and checking into a hotel - it's almost like playing an elaborate game. They even make up false identities to protect their secret, and Jayni becomes the glamorous-sounding Lola Rose. But when money runs out and reality bites, what will they do next?



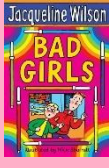
The Bed and Breakfast Star by Jacqueline Wilson

Elsa loves to tell jokes. She KNOWS she's going to be a big star one day - doing what she does best, making people laugh. But, after her family lose their lovely house and move into a bed and breakfast hotel, it seems like no one laughs anymore... Despite their circumstances, Elsa is still determined to be a star! Even if it's just at their run-down bed and breakfast.



Bad Girls by Jacqueline Wilson

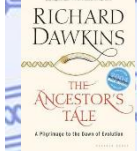
Mandy is lonely. She's been bullied at school for as long as she can remember. But then she meets Tanya. Fun, daring and glamorous Tanya wants Mandy as HER friend! She can't believe her luck. There's only one issue though. Mandy's mum isn't happy. She thinks that Tanya is a BAD GIRL, and a bad influence on her daughter. But even if Tanya gets her into a TEENY bit of trouble, she can always get Mandy out of it - right?



British Science Week 2025

This year, British Science Week is taking place between 7th and 16th of March. Each Science Week has an associated theme, and this year's is '**change and adapt**.' The British Science Week website says: "Changing and adapting plays a big part in science; you can find examples in every area of STEM. Cities, towns and other areas where people live change and adapt as the world's population grows, plants and animals change and adapt to their surroundings to survive. Technology has changed exponentially and adapted to our new, busier lives... Our behaviours change too – we need to change how we consume the world's resources to offset the worst effects of the climate crisis and adapt our lifestyles to reduce our impact through recycling or reducing waste." Visit the British Science Week website [here](https://www.britishschools.org/science-week) to find out more.

The Ancestor's Tale: A Pilgrimage to the Dawn of Evolution by Richard Dawkins and Yan Wong



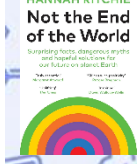
The Ancestor's Tale is a dazzling, four-billion-year pilgrimage to the origins of life: Richard Dawkins and Yan Wong take us on an exhilarating reverse journey through evolution, from present-day humans back to the microbial beginnings of life. It is a journey happily interrupted by meetings of fellow modern animals (as well as plants, fungi and bacteria) similarly tracing their evolutionary path back through history. As each evolutionary pilgrim tells their tale, Dawkins and Wong shed light on topics such as speciation, sexual selection and extinction.



Diversity of Life: from Single Cells to Multicellular Organisms by Robert Sneddon
A cell is too small for us to see without a microscope, yet this tiny chemical package holds all the ingredients of life. Some living things are just a single cell, but there are around 65 million cells in a human body. Cells are life's building blocks, all living things are made up of cells working together. This series explores all aspects of cells and the living world, and includes snippets of science history, as well as key scientific achievements.

Life Ascending: The Ten Great Inventions of Evolution by Nick Lane

How did life invent itself? Where did DNA come from? How did consciousness develop? Powerful new research methods are providing vivid insights into the makeup of life. Comparing gene sequences, examining atomic structures of proteins, and looking into the geochemistry of rocks have helped explain evolution in more detail than ever before. Nick Lane expertly reconstructs the history of life by describing the ten greatest inventions of evolution (including DNA, photosynthesis, sex, and sight), based on their historical impact, role in organisms today, and relevance to current controversies. Who would have guessed that eyes started off as light-sensitive spots used to calibrate photosynthesis in algae? Or that DNA's building blocks form spontaneously in hydrothermal vents? Lane gives a gripping, lucid account of nature's ingenuity, and the result is a work of essential reading for anyone who has ever pondered or questioned the science underlying evolution's greatest gifts to man.



Not the End of the World by Hannah Ritchie

We are bombarded by doomsday headlines that tell us the soil won't be able to support crops, fish will vanish from our oceans, that we should reconsider having children. But in this bold, radically hopeful book, data scientist Hannah Ritchie argues that if we zoom out, a very different picture emerges. The data shows we've made so much progress on these problems, and so fast, that we could be on track to achieve true sustainability for the first time in history. Packed with the latest research, practical guidance and enlightening graphics, this book will make you rethink almost everything you've been told about the environment, from the virtues of eating locally and living in the countryside, to the evils of overpopulation, plastic straws and palm oil. It will give you the tools to understand what works, what doesn't and what we urgently need to focus on so we can leave a sustainable planet for future generations. These problems are big. But they are solvable. We are not doomed. We can build a better future for everyone. Let's turn that opportunity into reality.

Entangled Life by Merlin Sheldrake

The more we learn about fungi, the less makes sense without them. They can change our minds, heal our bodies and even help us avoid environmental disaster; they are metabolic masters, earth-makers and key players in most of nature's processes. In *Entangled Life*, Merlin Sheldrake takes us on a mind-altering journey into their spectacular world and reveals how these extraordinary organisms transform our understanding of our planet and life itself.

Beetles for Breakfast, and Other Weird and Wonderful Ways to Save the Planet by Madeleine Finlay

We all know the effects that climate change and global warming are having on our planet - but what we don't all know is some of the strange, and often bizarre ways scientists are working to find practical and imaginative answers to these big problems. Following a day in the life of an average child, we see how some of these futuristic inventions could fit into everyday life: from brushing your teeth with biodegradable algae, to eating beetle burgers for lunch and coming home to do your homework with a pen containing ink made from exhaust fumes. With a mixture of abstract, infographic-style artwork and topical, funny and expertly-researched facts, children will love seeing familiar scenes with a futuristic twist, teaching them all about the cool, exciting and sometimes quite strange inventions that could be commonplace in the not-so-distant future.



Children's Comic Book Sales Boom in the UK

The publishing industry is seeing a substantial boost in the sales of children's comics and graphic novels, with sales reaching an all-time peak of nearly £20 million in Britain. Media analyst Philip Stone noted that superhero comics and popular manga series are driving this trend, likely influenced by movies based on these characters. In an interview with *The Observer*, Jamie Smart (creator of the *Bunny Vs Monkey* comics) explained that comics can tell stories effectively by combining visuals and text, which can captivate younger readers. This boom in sales holds greater significance in the light of a recent report which showed a decline in children's reading habits, with only 1/3 of those polled enjoying reading in their free time. Last year, researchers at Manchester University ran the first university-led research programme into the impact of comics on literacy. Fifty students took part in the comics literacy programme, while 50 others functioned as a control group. The study found that reading comics improves literacy, with students who read comics showing greater improvement in their reading skills. The study's comic readers also began to enjoy reading more in general, which goes toward highlighting the potential of comics to inspire a love for reading among young people. Original *Observer* article by Vanessa Thorpe [here](https://www.theguardian.com/uk/2024/mar/14/comics-literacy-programme).



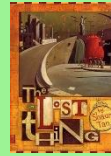
SilverFin: The Graphic Novel by Charles Higson



It's James Bond's first day at Elon and already he's made an enemy. An enemy who will follow him from the school playing fields to the remote shores of Loch SilverFin, where a terrifying new breed of warfare threatens to unleash destruction on the world. Before the name became a legend. Before the boy became the man. See *Young Bond* in action for the very first time. The legend begins with SilverFin.

The Lost Thing by Shaun Tan

A kid finds a lost 'thing' on the beach where he's scavenging for his bottle-top collection. The thing is a large, freakish creature but no-one else really notices it—it's simply not a part of their familiar day-to-day reality. So, the kid takes it upon himself to try to find where the lost thing belongs... The *Lost Thing* is a gently humorous story that will be read and enjoyed by a wide range of ages. While the narrative is full of typical thoughts of an observant and caring young person, the illustrations provide a surreal and thought-provoking backdrop for this 'lost dog story' with a definite twist.

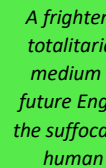


Batman: The Killing Joke by Alan Moore and Brian Bolland (Recommended for Older Readers)



For the first time the Joker's origin is revealed in this tale of insanity and human perseverance. Looking to prove that any man can be pushed past his breaking point and go mad, the Joker attempts to drive Commissioner Gordon insane. After shooting and permanently paralyzing his daughter Barbara (a.k.a. Batgirl), the Joker kidnaps the commissioner and attacks his mind in hopes of breaking her. But refusing to give up, Gordon maintains his sanity with the help of Batman in an effort to beset the madman.

V for Vendetta by Alan Moore and David Lloyd (Recommended for Older Readers)



A frightening and powerful tale of the loss of freedom and identity in a chillingly believable totalitarian world, *V for Vendetta* stands as one of the highest achievements of the comics medium and a defining work for creators Alan Moore and David Lloyd. Set in an imagined future England that has given itself over to fascism, this groundbreaking story captures both the suffocating nature of life in an authoritarian police state and the redemptive power of the human spirit which rebels against it. Crafted with sterling clarity and intelligence, *V for Vendetta* brings an unequalled depth of characterization and verisimilitude to its unflinching account of oppression and resistance.



The Complete Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi



Persepolis is the story of Satrapi's unforgettable childhood and coming of age within a large and loving family in Tehran during the Islamic Revolution; of the contradictions between private and public life in a country plagued by political upheaval; of her high school years in Vienna facing the trials of adolescence far from her family; of her homecoming—both sweet and terrible; and, finally, of her self-imposed exile from her beloved homeland. It is the chronicle of a girlhood and adolescence at once outrageous and familiar, a young life entwined with the history of her country yet filled with the universal trials and joys of growing up.

The Sad Ghost Club Volume 1 by Lize Meddings

Ever felt anxious or alone? Like you don't belong anywhere? Like you're almost... invisible? Find your kindred spirits at The Sad Ghost Club. This is the story of one of those days - a day so bad you can barely get out of bed, when it's a struggle to leave the house, and when you do, you wish you hadn't. But even the worst of days can surprise you. When one sad ghost, lost and alone at a crowded party, spies another sad ghost across the room, they decide to leave together. What happens next changes everything. Because that night they start the The Sad Ghost Club - a secret society for the anxious and alone, a club for people who think they don't belong.

