

must be typed up using Arial font and double-spaced.

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LIBRARY



The Midnight Library by Matt Haig (Recommended for Older Readers)

Between life and death there is a library. When Nora Seed finds herself in the Midnight Library, she has a chance to make things right. Up until now, her life has been full of misery and regret. She feels she has let everyone down, including herself. But things are about to change. The books in the Midnight Library enable Nora to live as if she had done things differently. With the help of

THE

- words (for ages up to 13) or 1,500 words (for ages 14+).
- Poems must be written in English, be previously unpublished, and a maximum length of 30 lines. They
- The closing date for all entries is Friday 21st February 2025 at 5pm. Winners will receive book tokens.

body of work ranging from fiction to literary criticism, and stories that resonate with readers and commentators alike.

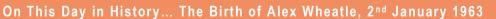
BookToker Bill Wood Discusses Own Bestselling Novel



24-year-old writer and TikTok creator Bill Wood became bestselling author overnight upon the release of his 2024 YA horror/ thriller novel Let's Split Up. Wood has nurtured a lifelong passion for the horror genre, and this is reflected in his book, which is a love letter to the genre: in a BBC interview, he described his novel as "a culmination of everything I love." Let's Split Up follows four teenagers as they investigate the murder of a popular couple in a haunted manor, and has been described as a blend of classic slasher film Scream and mystery cartoon series Scooby Doo. Wood has expounded upon the importance of supporting debut authors, saying, "It's just a really nice feeling knowing that people are supporting debuts, I think we do need to support more debuts... it really affects [authors'] careers and I know this is going to help me a lot in the future." He is currently working on an untitled sequel which is set to be released in Autumn 2025. The sequel will share similarities with the film Scream 2, in that it will be "a commentary on the genre... [and] a commentary on sequels." Original BBC article by Chloe Hughes here.

Let's Split Up by Bill Wood

When hot "it-couple" Brad and Shelley are brutally murdered in a manor on the edge of town, a group of teen friends investigate. Set in Sanera, a small community in California where rumour spreads as fast as the fire on the day of the killings, the theory is the old ghoul who haunts the house after his own murder hundreds of years ago has finally taken revenge. As Cam, Jonesy, Amber and new-girl Buffy investigate, the rumour feels closer to the truth than they ever dared think possible, and as they enter the mansion themselves, the idea of splitting up to find evidence will prove to be either the best... or worst decision of all...





Celebrated author Alex Wheatle spent much of his childhood in a London children's home. He had a passion for music, and at the age of 16 became a founding member of soundsystem Crucial Rocker, DJing under the pseudonym Yardman Irie and writing lyrics about everyday life in his hometown of Brixton, South London. In 1981, Wheatle participated in the Brixton Riots and was subsequently sentenced to prison. While incarcerated, he found a love for reading, devouring the works of Richard Wright and John Steinbeck among other literary greats. Wheatle's cellmate encouraged his reading and inspired him to care about his education. Once he was released from prison. Wheatle began writing fiction - some of which was inspired by his experiences living in Brixton. His debut novel Brixton Rock, published in 1999, won the London Arts Board New Writers Award that year and was later adapted for the stage. From there his career went from strength to strength, and to date Wheatle has published 17 novels. He now visits various institutions facilitating creative writing classes and making speeches. Fellow author S.F. Said has described Wheatle's writing as "poetic, rhythmic and unique, remaking the English language with tremendous verve."

Cane Warriors by Alex Wheatle





an old friend, she can now undo every one of her regrets as she tries to work out her perfect life. But things aren't always what she imagined they'd be, and soon her choices place the library and herself in extreme danger. Before time runs out, she must answer the ultimate question: what is the best way to live?

Creative Rights in AI Coalition Calls on Government to Protect Copyright

A new coalition of rights holders including publishers, authors, artists, and photographers has called on the government to spur growth in the creative and tech sectors by protecting copyright where AI (artificial intelligence) and GAI (generative artificial intelligence) is concerned. The issue they wish to combat is that GAI is fed information from all over the internet in order to aid its development, thus many intellectual properties are being plagiarised without financial compensation or credit being given to the original creators. The coalition, called the Creative Rights in AI Coalition, is calling on the government to adopt three principles as a framework for developing AI policy. The principles focus on a dynamic licensing market with robust protections for copyright; control and transparency for content creators; and driving growth and innovation in the creative and tech sectors.

Recent public polling by YouGov and Reset Tech (a global non-profit organization that works to protect people from digital threats to their safety, security, and fundamental rights) has found that the public overwhelmingly back transparency in the training of AI models and the payment of royalties to content creators by tech firms. 72% of respondents said AI companies should be required to pay royalties to the creators of text, audio, or video that they use to train AI models, while 80% said AI companies should be required to make public all the information that their models have been trained upon.

In a statement, the Coalition said: "Protecting copyright and building a dynamic licensing market for the use of creative content in building generative AI isn't just a question of fairness: it's the only way that both sectors will flourish and grow." Find out more here.

Critical Theory of AI by Simon Lindgren

We live in an age of artificial intelligence. Machines think and act in ever more complex ways,

making suggestions and decisions on our behalf. While AI might be seen as practical and

profitable, issues of data surveillance, algorithmic control, and sexist and racist bias persist. In

this rapidly changing landscape, social analysis of AI risks getting scaled down to issues of

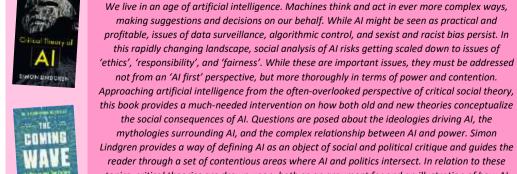
'ethics', 'responsibility', and 'fairness'. While these are important issues, they must be addressed

not from an 'AI first' perspective, but more thoroughly in terms of power and contention.

Approaching artificial intelligence from the often-overlooked perspective of critical social theory,

the social consequences of AI. Questions are posed about the ideologies driving AI, the

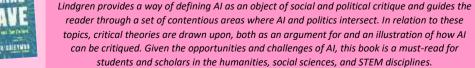
mythologies surrounding AI, and the complex relationship between AI and power. Simon





CANE





students and scholars in the humanities, social sciences, and STEM disciplines. The Coming Wave: AI, Power, and Our Future by Mustafa Suleyman

A warning of the unprecedented risks that AI and other fast-developing technologies pose to global order, and how we might contain them while we have the chance—from a co-founder of the pioneering artificial intelligence company DeepMind. We are approaching a critical threshold in the history of our species. Everything is about to change. Soon you will live surrounded by AIs. They will organise your life, operate your business, and run core government services. You will live in a world of DNA printers and quantum computers, engineered pathogens and autonomous weapons, robot assistants and abundant energy. None of us are prepared. As co-founder of the pioneering AI company DeepMind, part of Google, Mustafa Suleyman has been at the centre of this revolution. The coming decade, he argues, will be defined by this wave of powerful, fast-proliferating new technologies. In The Coming Wave, Suleyman shows how these forces will create immense prosperity but also threaten the nationstate, the foundation of global order. As our fragile governments sleepwalk into disaster, we face an existential unprecedented harm on one side, the threat of overbearing surveillance on the other. Can we forge a narrow path between catastrophe and dystopia?

MATT HAIG





Jane Austen: Emma- A Casebook David Lodge ree new essays have been added in this new edition. Reflecting new critical approaches n as feminism and deconstruction. The new material complements the classic studies by ics such as Arnold Kettle and Lionel Trilling. Revised and extended introduction puts the changing interpretation of Austen's novel in historical context.

Dostoevsky: Social Media Sensation



The works of Fyodor Dostoevsky, author of many classic Russian works of fiction, have seen a new spike in popularity thanks to social media app TikTok. TikTok's literary community, known as BookTok, has popularised Dostoevsky among a new generation of readers with White Nights, a novella about unrequited love, being the most sought after. The impact of the book's renewed fame is measurable: *White Nights* was 2024's fourth most sold work of literature in translation in the UK. General manager of Hatchards Picadilly bookshop in London, Francis Cleverdon, says the novella has become "a phenomenon". Click here to read the original Guardian article by Imogen West-Knights.

Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostovevsky

etersburg and commits a random murder without remorse or regret. He imagin





The Brothers Karamazov by Fyodor Dostoevsky

