



## AUTUMN TERM

*"Life is divine Chaos. It's messy, and it's supposed to be that way."* – John Keats

If you would like to renew a book, or have any comments/ queries, please don't hesitate to contact me at [library@newsteadwood.co.uk](mailto:library@newsteadwood.co.uk)

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

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**Even if We Break** by Marieke Nijkamp  
*Five friends go to a cabin. Four of them are hiding secrets. Three years of history bind them. Two are doomed from the start. One person wants to end this. No one is safe. Are you ready to play?*

**If He Had Been with Me** by Laura Nowlin  
*Throughout their whole childhood, Finn and Autumn were inseparable—they finished each other's sentences, they knew just what to say when the other person was hurting. But one incident in middle school puts them in separate social worlds come high school, and Autumn has been happily dating James for the last 2 years. But she's always wondered what if... The night she's about to get the answer is also one of terrible tragedy.*

**The Economics Book** by Niall Kishtaniy et al  
*What happens in a recession? How does money work? Why do we pay taxes? Economics affects every aspect of our lives, from how we get to work to where we spend our money—and big economic ideas continue to shape the world. Written in plain English, The Economics Book is packed with short, pithy explanations that cut through the jargon, step-by-step diagrams that untangle knotty theories, classic quotes that make economics memorable, and witty illustrations that enhance and play with our understanding of economics. Whether you're a beginner, and avid student, or an armchair expert, you'll find plenty to stimulate you within this book.*

**Hello Me, It's You** by Various  
*This is a book of advice, from young people who made it through, to their sixteen-year-old selves. Roughly three people in every class have some kind of mental health issue, but most of them have no idea what's going on. They think they're just weak, or shy, or bad, or completely, irreversibly, writing-on-the-walls 'insane'. But they're not. They have some form of depression, anxiety, eating disorder or other mental health issue and they will come out the other side. Whatever your mental health experiences, this book will help you through.*

**Fourth Wing** by Rebecca Yarros  
**(Recommended for Older Readers)**  
*Twenty-year-old Violet Sorrengail was supposed to enter the Scribe Quadrant, living a quiet life among books and history. Now, the commanding general—also known as her tough-as-talons mother—has ordered Violet to join the hundreds of candidates striving to become the elite of Navarre: dragon riders. But when you're smaller than everyone else and your body is brittle, death is only a heartbeat away...because dragons don't bond to "fragile" humans. They incinerate them. With fewer dragons willing to bond than cadets, most would kill Violet to better their own chances of success. The rest would kill her just for being her mother's daughter—like Xaden Riorson, the most powerful and ruthless wingleader in the Riders Quadrant. She'll need every edge her wits can give her just to see the next sunrise. Yet, with every day that passes, the war outside grows more deadly, the kingdom's protective wards are failing, and the death toll continues to rise. Even worse, Violet begins to suspect leadership is hiding a terrible secret.*

**Sweet and Bitter Magic** by Adrienne Tooley  
*Tamsin is the most powerful witch of her generation. But after committing the worst magical sin, she's exiled by the ruling Coven and cursed with the inability to love. The only way she can get those feelings back—even for just a little while—is to steal love from others. Wren is a source—a rare kind of person who is made of magic, despite being unable to use it herself. Sources are required to train with the Coven as soon as they discover their abilities, but Wren—the only caretaker to her ailing father—has spent her life hiding her secret. When a magical plague ravages the queendom, Wren's father falls victim. To save him, Wren proposes a bargain: if Tamsin will help her catch the dark witch responsible for creating the plague, then Wren will give Tamsin her love for her father. Of course, love bargains are a tricky thing, and these two have a long, perilous journey ahead of them—that is, if they don't kill each other first...*

### External Competition: The Voices Creative Writing Competition for Children in Care and Young Care Leavers

The Voices competition, now in its sixth year, is a national creative writing competition for children in care and young care leavers, run by Coram Voice. Coram Voice is a leading charity championing the rights of care-experienced children and young people.

All entries must comply to a **500 word limit** and can be written in any format e.g. poems, short stories, raps, or newspaper articles. The theme of this year's competition is **'What Makes Me Different?'** There are four age categories: primary school (ages 5-10), lower secondary school (ages 11-14), upper secondary school (ages 15-17), and care leavers (ages 18-25). The **deadline for entries is the 17<sup>th</sup> of December 2023.**

Entries will be judged by an expert panel of children's authors such as Patrice Lawrence, Lauren Child, and Jarvis. The awards ceremony in 2024 will be hosted by actor Peter Capaldi who said: "I'm delighted to be hosting the Voices 2024 awards ceremony alongside one of the competition's former winners, Claire. I've been proud to support the competition for many years, and it's always an honour to meet the young writers, hear their stories and celebrate their achievements. I'm always blown away by the talent of all the children and young people who take part, and I can't wait to see the entries this year. I wish all our writers the very best of luck!"

[Click here to submit your entry.](#)

### External Competition: The 18<sup>th</sup> World Children's Haiku Contest

The Japan Society's Haiku Contest is now open for entries. The contest was initially organised by the [JAL Foundation](#) in 1990 and has been held every two years since.

The competition is open to all individuals **aged 15 and under**. One entry is permitted per person, and the haiku must be on the theme of 'family'. The haiku must be accompanied by hand-drawn or hand-crafted artwork on the same page, using A4-sized paper (21cm x 29.7cm) or letter sized paper (8.5in. x 11in.). The application form (see link below to download) must then be glued to the back of the work. The deadline for this year's competition is **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024.**

First prize (a Canon digital camera) will be awarded to three entrants. Winners of the gold, silver, and bronze awards will also be invited to the awards ceremony in Tokyo, Japan, receiving a grant for travel and accommodation. Winners will be announced in June 2024.

Click [here](#) to read the JAL Foundation's advice for composing a haiku. Below are some haiku examples:

- An old silent pond...  
A frog jumps into the pond,  
splash! Silence again.  
-- Matsuo Basho
- Cumulus clouds form  
Cotton canopies the sun  
May hide its blushed face  
-- Pepewooli Ronni
- A package of words  
wrapped around a thought in it  
disappears when read  
-- Samanyan Lakshminarayanan
- Over the wintry  
Forest, winds howl in rage  
With no leaves to blow.  
Natsume Sōseki

[Click here to view details on how to enter, and to download an entry form.](#)



*The Penguin Book of Haiku* by Adam L Kern

A Japanese poetry form that flourished from the sixteenth to nineteenth centuries, haiku are defined by their brevity: they are usually only three lines long and a total of seventeen syllables. Most famously, they use natural imagery to make Zen-like observations about reality. However, as this anthology reveals, there's much more to haiku than cherry blossoms and waning moons: the verse included here is frequently funny, rude, and mischievous. Adam Kern has travelled throughout Japan to gather the best and most important examples of the genre, and his vivid and engaging translations form the basis of the Penguin Book of Haiku.

### Museum Searches for Book Containing Wilkie Collins' Criticism of Charles Dickens

Authors Wilkie Collins and Charles Dickens famously collaborated on both drama and fiction during their lifetimes, and enjoyed a long, close friendship until the death of Dickens in 1870. They frequently shared opinions on each other's writing, however it appears it was only after Dickens' death that Collins' revealed what he truly thought about some of his friend's major works. According to notes written by Collins in his copy of John Forster's *The Life of Charles Dickens*, he felt that *Barnaby Rudge* was Dickens' least accomplished novel, stating that it was the "weakest book that Dickens ever wrote". When criticising Dickens' final, unfinished work *Edwin Drood*, Collins opined that it was "the melancholy work of a worn-out brain." Collins even critiqued Dickens' *Oliver Twist*, saying that although it was a "wonderful" book, it suffered from "helplessly bad construction."

The hunt is now on to rediscover Collins' copy of Forster's biography of Dickens, which was last sold at auction in 1890. The intention is to display the work at an upcoming exhibition titled *Mutual Friends: The Adventures of Charles Dickens and Wilkie Collins*, which will be hosted by The Charles Dickens Museum in London. The book's whereabouts are currently unknown. Click [here](#) to read the original *Guardian* article by Caroline Davies.



*The Woman in White* by Wilkie Collins

The *Woman in White* famously opens with Walter Hartright's eerie encounter on a moonlit London road. Engaged as a drawing master to the beautiful Laura Fairlie, Walter becomes embroiled in the sinister intrigues of Sir Percival Glyde and his 'charming' friend Count Fosco, who has a taste for white mice, vanilla bonbons, and poison.

*The Moonstone* by Wilkie Collins

Wilkie Collins's spellbinding tale of romance, theft, and murder inspired a hugely popular genre—the detective mystery. Hinging on the theft of an enormous diamond originally stolen from an Indian shrine, this novel features the innovative Sergeant Cuff, the hilarious house steward Gabriel Betteridge, a lovesick housemaid, and a mysterious band of jugglers.



*Drood* by Dan Simmons

In 1865 Charles Dickens, the world's most famous writer, narrowly escapes death in the Staplehurst Rail Disaster. He will never be the same again. A public hero for rescuing survivors, he slowly descends into madness as he hunts the individual he believes to be responsible for the carnage: a spectral figure known only as Drood. His best friend, Wilkie Collins, is enlisted for the pursuit. Together they venture into Undertown, the shadowy, lawless web of crypts and catacombs beneath London. Here Drood is rumoured to hold sway over a legion of brainwashed followers. But as Wilkie spirals ever further into opium addiction and jealousy of the more successful novelist, he must face a terrifying possibility: is Charles Dickens really capable of murder?

### October's MOST POPULAR BOOKS

- A Good Girl's Guide to Murder** by Holly Jackson
- The Bad Beginning** by Lemong Snicket
- HARRY POTTER AND THE CURSED CHILD** by JK Rowling
- THE HANDMAID'S TALE** by Margaret Atwood
- ONE OF US IS LYING** by Karen M McManus
- Sapiens** by Yuval Noah Harari
- THE MISERABLE MILL** by Lemong Snicket
- THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY** by Suzanne Collins

### STAR BORROWERS OF THE MONTH

Each month we highlight star borrowers—those that have borrowed 5 or more books.

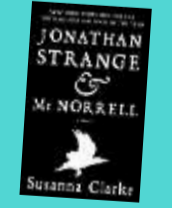
<b>Year 7</b> Iris 7N Neevh 7N Florence 7N Amelie 7N Khushi 7N Hannah 7W Simran 7W Hriya 7W Angel 7S Dia 7S	April 7F Merisha 7F Tripti 7F Zainab 7F Aarushi 7F Jasmine 7F Fiona 7F Ariadne 7F Sophie 7G Kinjal 7G Mehr 7G Elizabeth 7P	Joanne 7P Mariam 7P Naomi 7P Hansikaa 7P	<b>Year 8</b> Jessica 8W Madeleine 8W Charlotte 8S Olivia 8S Nmesoma 8S Senumi 8S Annabel 8S Imaan 8F Rose 8F Olivia 8F	Aria 8F Sara 8F Srisha 8F Dhivyaa 8G Caroline 8G Thuwaraka 8G Aksha 8P
<b>Year 9</b> Heather 9N Aleena 9W Celia 9S Eunice 9S Eniola 9F Kurangi 9G Keerthana 9G Chioma 9P Wenxuan 9P	<b>Year 10</b> Tanisha 10N Eleanor 10N Millie 10N Oluwatoni 10W Kelechi 10W Finn 10F Lucy 10G Nandana 10G Anthiya 10P	<b>Year 11</b> Lucy 11S Vyshally 11S Klementyna 11S	<b>Year 12</b> Frances 12N Fran 12W Julia 12S Gayathri 12F Niamh 12G	<b>Year 13</b> Grace 13N Gbemisola 13S Rowan 13S Ethan 13F Hephzibah 13H

### On This Day in History... The Birth of Susanna Clarke, 1<sup>st</sup> November 1959

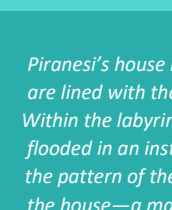
Susanna Clarke is an English author best known for her only two published novels, *Jonathan Strange and Mr Norrell* (2004) and *Piranesi* (2020). Clarke was a voracious reader growing up and enjoyed the works of classic authors such as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Charles Dickens and Jane Austen. She studied PPE at Oxford University and subsequently worked in publishing for eight years. In 1992, she began work on *Jonathan Strange and Mr Norrell*, an endeavour that would take her 12 years to complete. She said of her inspiration for her first novel, "I had a kind of waking dream ... about a man in 18th-century clothes in a place rather like Venice, talking to some English tourists. And I felt strongly that he had some sort of magical background — he'd been dabbling in magic, and something had gone badly wrong."



Clarke always intended to write a sequel to her first novel, however, following ill health the pursuit was put aside and she decided to work on *Piranesi* instead. Her genre-defying second novel went on to win her the Women's Prize for Fiction in 2021. A rumoured sequel to *Piranesi*, *The Cistern*, was announced by *Bloomsbury* as 'coming 2022' but the announcement has since been removed from their website and the status of the book is currently unknown.

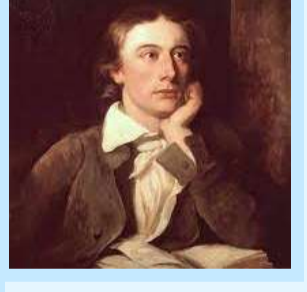


**Jonathan Strange and Mr Norrell** by Susanna Clarke  
*The year is 1806. England is beleaguered by the long war with Napoleon, and centuries have passed since practical magicians faded into the nation's past. But scholars of this glorious history discover that one remains: the reclusive Mr Norrell, whose displays of magic send a thrill through the country. Proceeding to London, he raises a beautiful woman from the dead and summons an army of ghostly ships to terrify the French. Yet the cautious, fussy Norrell is challenged by the emergence of another magician: the brilliant novice Jonathan Strange. Young, handsome and daring, Strange is the very antithesis of Norrell. So begins a dangerous battle between these two great men which overwhelms that between England and France. And their own obsessions and secret dabblings with the dark arts are going to cause more trouble than they can imagine.*



**Piranesi** by Susanna Clarke  
*Piranesi's house is no ordinary building: its rooms are infinite, its corridors endless, its walls are lined with thousands upon thousands of statues, each one different from all the others. Within the labyrinth of halls an ocean is imprisoned; waves thunder up staircases, rooms are flooded in an instant. But Piranesi is not afraid; he understands the tides as he understands the pattern of the labyrinth itself. He lives to explore the house. There is one other person in the house—a man called The Other, who visits Piranesi twice a week and asks for help with research into A Great and Secret Knowledge. But as Piranesi explores, evidence emerges of another person, and a terrible truth begins to unravel, revealing a world beyond the one Piranesi has always known.*

### On This Day in History... The Birth of John Keats, 31<sup>st</sup> October 1795



John Keats' tragically short life was devoted to the pursuit of perfect poetry. He was a poet of the Romantic movement, meaning that his works were inspired by serious, contemplative reflection of the interaction between humans and their environment. The Romantic movement came about as a foil to the 18<sup>th</sup> Century style of poetry, which was based on epics, odes, satires, elegies, epistles, and songs.

Keats' poetry often centred around, and was inspired by,

Ancient Greek and Roman mythology. His first 'mature' poem was the sonnet *On First Looking into Chapman's Homer* (1816) following his reading of George Chapman's translation of *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*. Other mythology-inspired poems by Keats include the epic poem *Endymion* (1818) which narrates the myth of the moon goddess Selene's love affair with the titular mortal shepherd, and another epic, *Hyperion* (1820) which tells of rise of the Olympians and the fall of the Titans.



John Keats died of tuberculosis in Italy in 1821 aged just 25. Though today acknowledged as one of the greatest poets of all time, his reputation only grew after his death, and he felt strongly underappreciated during his lifetime. Keats believed his impact on the world was transient and ultimately lacked importance. The melancholy Keats felt is illustrated poignantly by the words he requested to be engraved on his tombstone: "Here lies one whose name was writ in water."

**John Keats: The Making of a Poet** by Aileen Ward  
*John Keats: The Making of a Poet* is a biography about the poet written by Aileen Ward. After nine years of research, the work was initially published in 1963 by Viking and Secker & Warburg. *John Keats: The Making of a Poet* was the first major account of the poet's life since the two-volume work, *Keats*, was written by Amy Lowell in 1925. Ward received a National Book Award for Arts and Letters for the work in 1964.



**Selected Poems: John Keats** by John Keats and John Barnard  
*Over the course of his short life, John Keats (1795-1821) honed a raw talent into a brilliant poetic maturity. By the end of his brief career, he had written poems of such beauty, imagination and generosity of spirit, that he had - unwittingly - fulfilled his wish that he should 'be among the English poets after my death'. This wide-ranging selection of Keats's poetry contains youthful verse, such as his earliest known poem 'Imitation of Spenser'; poems from his celebrated collection of 1820 - including 'Lamia', 'Isabella', 'The Eve of St Agnes', 'Ode to a Nightingale' and 'Hyperion' - and later celebrated works such as 'La Belle Dame sans Merci'. Also included are many poems considered by Keats to be lesser work, but which illustrate his more earthy, playful side and superb ear for everyday language.*