



WINTER

“Kindness eases change. Love quiets fear” – Octavia E. Butler

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

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



Access our library software from any device, anywhere, using this URL: <https://uk.accessit.online/nws00>

To log in, click on the blue button that says 'Login with School Details,' or enter your school email address in the Borrower ID field and your school password in the password field. Use Accessit to view your loans; reserve books when you're unable to come to the library; search the library stock; write book reviews, and more.

Follow us on Twitter/ X:

[@NWSLibrary](https://twitter.com/NWSLibrary)

Follow us on Instagram:

[@nwschoollibrary](https://www.instagram.com/nwschoollibrary)

See what we're reading on Storygraph:

<https://app.thestorygraph.com/profile/newsteadlibrary>

View our Amazon Wish List:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/l/31UREQLV3HC1?ref=wl_share



The Parent Agency by David Baddiel
A boy travels to an alternate world where kids get to choose their own parents in this zany, internationally bestselling adventure, which combines the be-careful-what-you-wish-for humour of *The Chocolate Touch* with the classic appeal of Roald Dahl. Barry Bennett is sick of his parents. They're boring, they're too strict, and it's their fault his name is Barry. So he makes a wish for better ones—and is whisked away to the Parent Agency, where kids get to pick out their perfect parents. For Barry, this seems like a dream come true. But as he's about to discover, choosing a new mom and dad isn't as simple as it sounds...

How Many Socks Make a Pair? by Rob Eastaway

Do you gaze into your washing basket and wonder how long it'll take to find a pair of socks? Behind this question is a world of maths that can be creative, surprising and sometimes even beautiful. Using playing cards, a newspaper, the back of an envelope, a Sudoku, some pennies and of course a pair of socks, Rob Eastaway shows how maths can demonstrate its secret beauties in even the most mundane of everyday objects. Among the many fascinating curiosities in these pages, you will discover the strange link between limericks and rabbits, an apparently 'fair' coin game where the odds are massively in your favour, why tourist boards can't agree on where the centre of Britain is, and how simple paper folding can lead to a Jurassic Park monster. With plenty of ideas you'll want to test out for yourself, this engaging and refreshing look at mathematics is for everyone.



World War Z: An Oral History of the Zombie War by Max Brooks
(Recommended for Older Readers)

The *Zombie War* came unthinkable close to eradicating humanity. Max Brooks, driven by the urgency of preserving the acid-etched firsthand experiences of the survivors from those apocalyptic years, travelled across the United States of America and throughout the world, from decimated cities that once teemed with upwards of thirty million souls to the most remote and inhospitable areas of the planet. He recorded the testimony of men, women, and sometimes children who came face-to-face with the living - or at least the undead - hell of that dreadful time. *World War Z* is the result. Never before have we had access to a document that so powerfully conveys the depth of fear and horror, and also the ineradicable spirit of resistance, that gripped human society through the plague years.

The Detective Is Already Dead, Volume 1 by Mugiko, Nigozyu and Umibouzu

I, Kimihiko Kimizuka, was an ordinary high school student. Sure, I had a penchant for getting dragged into all sorts of trouble, but was otherwise ordinary—until I met her. The detective, Siesta. Her angelically beautiful face and cool disposition in the face of plane hijackers swept me off my feet...and the next thing I knew, I'd spent the next three years off on a whirlwind adventure acting as her assistant. After all, I was the Watson to her Sherlock. But then...she died. It didn't end there, though. No, our story only really began a year later when I met a bratty, snotty high school girl who seemed oddly familiar...

Clean Break by Jacqueline Wilson

Em adores her funny, glamorous dad—who cares if he's not her real father? He's wonderful to her, and to her little brother and sister. True to form, at Christmas, Dad gives them fantastic presents, including a real emerald ring for his little Princess Em. Unfortunately, he's got another surprise in store—he's leaving them. Will Dad's well-meaning but chaotic attempts to keep seeing Em and the other children help the family come to terms with this new crisis? Or would they be better off with a clean break—just like Em's arm?



The Legend of Zelda: Twilight Princess, Volume 1 by Akira Himekawa

Once upon a time, wizards tried to conquer the Sacred Realm of Hyrule. The Spirits of Light sealed the wizards' power within the Shadow Crystal and banished them to the Twilight Realm beyond the Mirror of Twilight. Now, an evil menace is trying to find Midna, Princess of the Twilight Realm, and the fragments of the Shadow Crystal to gain the power to rule over both the Twilight Realm and the World of Light. Link once trained in swordsmanship, hoping to protect the world of Hyrule. After a fateful meeting, he sought out the anonymity and peace of life in a small village. But danger and adventure always find heroes to set things right, and when the dark minions of the King of Shadows threaten his new home, Link answers the call!



Wish List Spotlight:



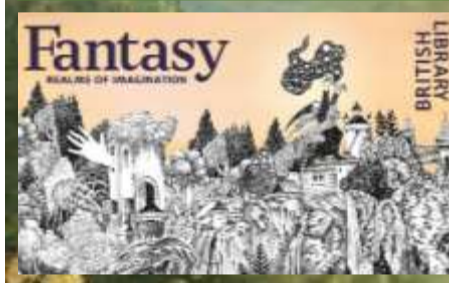
The Clockwork Conspiracy by Sam Sedgman

A locked-room mystery packed with rooftop chases, hidden codes and mind-bending science, *The Clockwork Conspiracy* is a must for fans of the *Adventures on Trains* series and Sharna Jackson's *High Rise* mysteries.

Aspiring inventor Isaac Turner lives with his dad, the horologist in charge of Big Ben. But when his father vanishes from the belfry on the night the clocks go back, leaving behind only a smashed pocket watch and a cryptic message, Isaac determines to find him.

Hunting a trail of clues through London's landmarks, Isaac uncovers a sinister plot in the gears of government and embarks on a race against time to save his father - and time itself.

British Library Exhibition Celebrates Fantasy Fiction



Open until the 25th of February, the British Library in London is hosting an exhibit titled *Fantasy: Realms of Imagination* in celebration of the fantasy genre. The show "explores the long history of fantasy through manuscripts and early editions of landmark novels, as well as props, costumes and clips from the popular TV shows and films that expanded the genre - from Gandalf's staff to a snippet of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*."

Items on display are many and varied, including: an exclusive video game created for the exhibit which visitors are invited to play; etchings by Giovanni Battista Piranesi the namesake of the protagonist of Susanna Clarke's novel of the same name, as well as Susanna Clarke's sketches of the maps she used to craft her novel; an early copy of Homer's *The Iliad*; Percy Bysshe Shelley's original working copy of his poem *Queen Mab*; a display of *Magic the Gathering* cards, and many other diverse and interesting objects and interactive features. The exhibition is accompanied by a festival, *Black to the Future*, founded by the writer Irenosen Okojie and launching at The British Library on the 3rd of November this year.

Claire Ormsby-Potter, an editor at Gollancz, a sci-fi and fantasy publisher, said of the exhibition's popularity, "with the stress of the last few years, it's understandable that people have wanted to distance themselves from the real world and bring a little more magic into their lives... I think that level of escapism in stories, which acts as a buffer between reality and our imagination, can really help us to process difficult things in an environment removed from our own lives, and give us an ending to hope for."

Read the original *Guardian* article by Ella Creamer [here](#).



A 14th Century copy of Homer's *The Iliad*



Gandalf's staff and pipe from *The Lord of the Rings* films



A costume from *Wicked* and a poster from *The Wizard of Oz*, 1939.

The Wand in the Word: Conversations with Writers of Fantasy by Marcus S Leonard

What kind of child were you? When did you decide you wanted to be a writer? Why do you write fantasy? "Fantasy," writes Leonard S. Marcus, "is storytelling with the beguiling power to transform the impossible into the imaginable and to reveal our own 'real' world in a fresh and truth-bearing light." Few have harnessed this power with the artistry, verve, and imagination of the authors encountered in this compelling book. How do they work their magic? Finely nuanced and continually revealing, Leonard S. Marcus's interviews range widely over questions of literary craft and moral vision, as he asks thirteen noted fantasy authors about their pivotal life experiences, their literary influences and work routines, and their core beliefs about the place of fantasy in literature and in our lives.

External Competition: Henrietta Branford Writing Competition

The Henrietta Branford Writing Competition is now open. The annual writing competition for young people runs in conjunction with the Branford Boase Award for an outstanding children's or young adult novel by a first-time writer. Children's writer Henrietta Branford died of cancer in 1999, and the writing competition is held in her honour. The competition aims to find and encourage writers of the future, something author Henrietta Branford was always keen to do.

This year's competition is inspired by 2023 Branford Boase Award winner Christine Pillainayagam's book, *Ellie Pillai is Brown*, and this line in particular: "I think you have presence, something special about you. Something different". The competition is open to all young people up to the age of 19. Entrants are invited to write a short story, a poem, or a set of song lyrics about a character who has 'presence' and something special or different about them. Six winners will receive signed copies of each of the books shortlisted for the 2023 Branford Boase Award. Their stories, poems or song lyrics will be published on the Branford Boase Award website.

Chairing the Award is Prue Goodwin, consultant and lecturer in literacy learning and children's literature. Prue says "Remember, this writing is not a piece of schoolwork, it won't be marked by the judges, just read to be enjoyed. Try to make the final version as original as possible. The theme is there to help you get going, so use it to take your ideas wherever you want. Enjoy writing, and good luck!" The closing date for entries is Friday 31st of May, 2024.

For more details, and instructions for how to enter your submission, [click here](#).

26th February: International Tongue Twister Contest Day

A tongue twister is a phrase that is designed to be difficult to articulate properly. The oldest recorded tongue twister is 'she sells seashells on the seashore' which was published in 1850 as a diction exercise, however tongue twisters likely existed long before that. The term tongue twister was first applied to these difficult phrases in 1895. International Tongue Twister Contest Day exists to celebrate tongue twisters and good-natured tongue twister contests. The day commemorates the annual International Tongue Twister Contest held at the Logic Puzzle Museum in Burlington, Wisconsin. The contest was first organized in 2008 and has become an annual tradition.

Classic Tongue Twisters:

- Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.
If Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers,
Where's the peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked?
- How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood?
He would chuck, he would, as much as he could, and chuck as much wood
As a woodchuck would if a woodchuck could chuck wood.
- She sells seashells on the seashore. The shells she sells are seashells, I'm sure.
- If a dog chews shoes, whose shoes does he choose?
- Fred fed Ted bread, and Ted fed Fred bread.
- Lesser leather never weathered wetter weather better.
- Betty Botter bought a bit of butter. "But," she said, "the butter's bitter.
If I put it in my batter, it will make my batter bitter.
But, a bit of better butter will make my batter better."
So, she bought a bit of butter, better than her bitter butter.
- No need to light a night-light on a light night like tonight.
- Round and round the rugged rock the ragged rascal ran.
- One-one was a racehorse. Two-two was one too. One-one won one race. Two-two won one too.
- And the world's most difficult tongue twister, as designated by a team of researchers from Massachusetts Institute of technology: Pad kid poured curd pulled cod.

I Saw Esau by Iona Opie, Peter Opie and Maurice Sendak

This collection of verse offers 170 rhymes of insult and retaliation; of teasing and repartee; rhymes for skipping and for counting out; riddles, tongue-twisters, narratives and nonsense - rhymes that have been chanted by children for generations.

On This Day in History... The Death of Octavia E. Butler, 24th February 2006



Octavia Estelle Butler, born June 1947, was an American Science Fiction author and winner of multiple prestigious awards. Among other accolades, Butler won the Hugo Award twice throughout her career - an annual literary award administered by the World Science Fiction Society for the best science fiction or fantasy works and achievements of the previous year. The Hugo Award is widely considered the premier award in science fiction.

Butler was a shy child, who found comfort reading fantasy fiction at the library, as well as writing. She had her first short story, *Crossover*, published in an anthology in 1971, and soon after sold another called *Childfinder* to fellow author Harlan Ellison for an anthology he was compiling. However, she "had five more years of rejection slips and

horrible little jobs ahead of [her] before [she] sold another word." The waiting paid off however, as Butler's legacy as a science fiction author is extremely well-respected and far-reaching. Her most famous novels include *Kindred* (1979), *The Parable of the Sower* (1993), and the *Lilith's Brood* trilogy (2000). She notably explored her experiences as a Black American woman through her writing, covering themes such as gender stereotypes and white privilege.

In 1995, Octavia E. Butler became the first science fiction author to receive a MacArthur Fellowship. Colloquially called 'The Genius Grant' the MacArthur Fellowship is a prize awarded annually by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to between 20 and 30 US residents/ citizens working in any field who have shown "extraordinary originality and dedication in their creative pursuits and a marked capacity for self-direction." In 2005 Butler was inducted into Chicago State University's International Black Writers' Hall of Fame, and in 2021 NASA named the Mars landing site of the Perseverance rover the 'Octavia E. Butler Landing' in her honour.

Octavia Butler passed away on 24th February 2006 at the age of 58. She bequeathed her papers to the Huntington Library in California. The collection was made available to the public in 2010.

Kindred by Octavia Butler
(Recommended for Older Readers)

In 1976, Dana dreams of being a writer. In 1815, she is assumed a slave. When Dana first meets Rufus on a Maryland plantation, he's drowning. She saves his life - and it will happen again and again. Neither of them understands his power to summon her whenever his life is threatened, nor the significance of the ties that bind them. And each time Dana saves him, the more aware she is that her own life might be over before it's even begun.

Parable of the Sower by Octavia Butler
(Recommended for Older Readers)

We are coming apart. We're a rope, breaking, a single strand at a time. America is a place of chaos, where violence rules and only the rich and powerful are safe. Lauren Olamina, a young woman with the extraordinary power to feel the pain of others as her own, records everything she sees of this broken world in her journal. Then, one terrible night, everything alters beyond recognition, and Lauren must make her voice heard for the sake of those she loves. Soon, her vision becomes reality and her dreams of a better way to live gain the power to change humanity forever. All that you touch, You Change. All that you Change, Changes you.

On This Day in History... The Death of Harper Lee, 19th February 2016

Harper Lee, born Nelle Harper Lee, is one of the best-known authors of all time despite only having published two books. She wrote under the name Harper as she was concerned that her first name would be misread as Nellie, rather than Nelle. Her first novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, was published in 1960 and was an immediate bestseller, winning the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1961. Lee said of her debut's success, "I never expected any sort of success with *Mockingbird*. I was hoping for a quick and merciful death at the hands of the reviewers, but at the same time I sort of hoped someone would like it enough to give me encouragement. Public encouragement. I hoped for a little, as I said, but I got rather a whole lot, and in some ways this was just about as frightening as the quick, merciful death I'd expected." Harper Lee's second novel, *Go Set a Watchman*, wasn't published until 2015. It was originally written as a first draft of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, but was repackaged and rewritten as a sequel instead, set 20 years after the events of *Mockingbird*.



Lee was good friends with Truman Capote, author of the true crime book *In Cold Blood* and assisted the author with his research for the book. In turn, it is suspected by some scholars that Capote helped Lee with the first few chapters of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Harper Lee passed away in her sleep in 2016 aged 89, less than a year after the publication of *Go Set a Watchman*.



To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

A lawyer's advice to his children as he defends the real mockingbird of Harper Lee's classic novel - a black man falsely charged with the rape of a white girl. Through the young eyes of Scout and Jem Finch, Harper Lee explores with exuberant humour the irrationality of adult attitudes to race and class in the Deep South of the 1930s. The conscience of a town steeped in prejudice, violence and hypocrisy is pricked by the stamina of one man's struggle for justice. But the weight of history will only tolerate so much.

The Connell Guide to Harper Lee's To Kill a Mockingbird by Stephen Fender

Within two years of its publication in 1960, *To Kill a Mockingbird* had been translated into ten languages, won the Pulitzer Prize, emerged as an Oscar-winning film and spent 88 weeks on the American best-seller lists. By 1964 it had sold five million copies; now the book's world sales total over six times that. It has never been out of print, in either hardback or paperback. Yet the novel has often been misunderstood. It is much more than a 'period piece', in Professor Harold Bloom's phrase, about racial prejudice in the Deep South in the 1930s. In this compelling new guide, Stephen Fender explains the secret of its enduring appeal.



Go Set a Watchman by Harper Lee

Maycomb, Alabama. Twenty-six-year-old Jean Louise Finch—"Scout"—returns home from New York City to visit her aging father, Atticus. Set against the backdrop of the civil rights tensions and political turmoil that were transforming the South, Jean Louise's homecoming turns bittersweet when she learns disturbing truths about her close-knit family, the town and the people dearest to her. Memories from her childhood flood back, and her values and assumptions are thrown into doubt. Featuring many of the iconic characters from *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Go Set a Watchman* perfectly captures a young woman, and a world, in a painful yet necessary transition out of the illusions of the past—a journey that can be guided only by one's conscience. Written in the mid-1950s, *Go Set a Watchman* imparts a fuller, richer understanding and appreciation of Harper Lee.

