



SPRING

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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

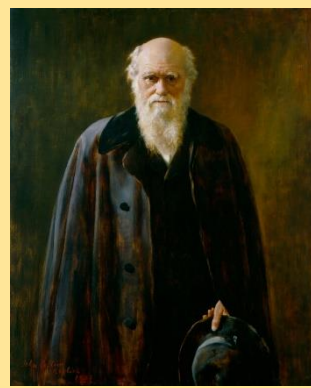
Meetings are once a month on a Monday from
5:30-6:30pm, during term time, for ages 11-
14 years

We look forward to seeing you!



On This Day... Charles Darwin was born 12th February 1809

Charles Darwin, born on February 12, 1809, was an English naturalist, biologist, and geologist who became one of the most influential scientists in history for developing the theory of evolution by natural selection. He believed that all living things are related and descended from common ancestors, an idea that completely changed how people understood life on Earth. Although Darwin first studied medicine, he quickly lost interest and instead became passionate about nature and science, especially after joining a five-year voyage aboard the HMS *Beagle*, where he studied plants, animals, fossils, and geological formations around the world. These observations led him to question why species varied depending on their environments, and after years of careful research, he developed his theory of natural selection in 1838. In 1859, he published his most famous book, *On the Origin of Species*, which presented strong evidence for evolution and convinced many scientists that evolution was a fact. Around the same time, Alfred Russel Wallace independently developed a similar idea, and the two scientists published their findings together. Darwin later expanded his work to study human evolution, sexual selection, plants, and even earthworms, showing how small natural processes can have major effects over time. His ideas became the foundation of modern biology, and due to his enormous impact on science, Darwin was honoured with burial in Westminster Abbey after his death in 1882.



The Autobiography of Charles Darwin by Charles Darwin

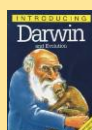
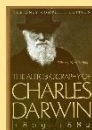
This gentle self-portrait provides a unique insight into the beliefs & principles of the moral man whose theories on evolution shook the foundations of traditional religion & whose legacy courts both controversy & the accolade of being part of scientific orthodoxy in equal measure to this day.

The Illustrated Origins of Species by Charles Darwin and Richard Leakey

Darwin's reasoned, documented arguments carefully advance his theory of natural selection and his assertion that species were not created all at once by a divine hand but started with a few simple forms that mutated and adapted over time. Its profound ideas remain controversial even today, making it the most influential book in the natural sciences ever written—an important work not just to its time but to the history of humankind.

Introducing Darwin and Evolution by Jonathan Miller and Borin Van Loon

Taking us through the upheavals in biological thought which made The Origins of Species possible, Jonathan Miller introduces us to that odd revolutionary, Charles Darwin -- a remarkably timid man who spent most of his life in seclusion; a semi-invalid riddled with doubts, fearing the controversy his theories might unleash; yet also the man who finally undermined belief in God's creation. Along the way we meet a fascinating cast of characters: Darwin's scientific predecessors, his contemporaries (including Alfred Russel Wallace, whose anticipation of natural selection forced Darwin to publish), his opponents, and his successors whose work in modern genetics provided necessary modifications to Darwin's own work.



International Day of Women and Girls in Science is this February 11th

The International Day of Women and Girls in Science, celebrated on February 11, is an important opportunity to recognize the achievements of women in science while also encouraging more girls to pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). STEM fields are among the fastest-growing areas of employment, and many employers struggle to find enough skilled workers, making the participation of women more important than ever. Throughout history, women have been underrepresented in science due to long-standing gender inequality, even though early figures like Merit-Ptah in ancient Egypt and later pioneers such as Marie Curie made groundbreaking contributions. While progress has been made over time—such as women gaining access to higher education, earning engineering degrees, and entering fields like computer science and technology—women and girls still face barriers in fully participating in STEM careers. Recognizing this issue, the United Nations established this international day in 2015 to promote equal access, participation, and opportunity for women and girls in science, which is essential for global development and innovation. Today, the celebration also encourages people to support young women through education, scholarships, and role models, helping them explore their interests and build confidence in STEM fields so they can help shape the future of science and technology. If you would like to find out more, please click [here](#).



Fantastically Great Women Scientists and Their Stories by Kate Pankhurst

Women have been responsible for many of the world's most groundbreaking scientific discoveries. Kate Pankhurst, descendant of Emmeline Pankhurst, tells the stories of some incredible female scientists whose hard work and persistence changed our understanding of science, and transformed people's ideas of what women can do.



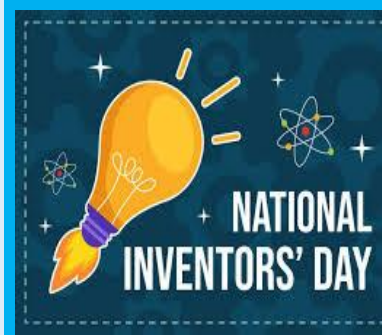
A Galaxy of Her Own: Amazing Stories of Women in Space by Libby Jackson

From small steps to giant leaps, this is the story of 50 inspirational women who have been fundamental to the story of humans in space, from scientists to astronauts to some surprising roles in between.



Happy National Inventors' Day!

National Inventors' Day is celebrated on February 11th and is a time to recognize how important inventors are to human progress. Human creativity and problem-solving are what set us apart from other species, and inventions help show how far we have come as a society, from early ideas like the wheel to modern technology that shapes everyday life. This day also connects to the life of Thomas Alva Edison, who was born on February 11, 1847, and later patented one of the most important inventions in history, the light bulb, in 1878. In 1983, U.S. President Ronald Reagan officially declared February 11th as National Inventors' Day to honour inventors and their



contributions. Other countries celebrate inventors too, such as Argentina, which observes Inventors' Day on September 29 in honour of László Bíró, the inventor of the ballpoint pen. Overall, National Inventors' Day reminds us to appreciate the ideas and innovations that have improved our lives and continue to drive human progress forward.

Who Discovered What When by David Ellyard

An absorbing introduction to the growth of scientific knowledge over the last 500 years. It sets important discoveries in a context of time and place and introduces the reader to the people who brought them to life. Along the way, it provides a framework for understanding the concepts and theories which collectively form our modern scientific view.



Scientists and Inventors: The People Who Made Technology by Anthony Feldman

"The people who made technology from earliest times to present day". Presents more than 150 chronologically arranged biographies of scientists and inventors with emphasis on their particular contributions to human progress.



"Valentine's Day is the poet's holiday." – Ted Kooser

NEW

The Man Who Mistook his Wife for a Hat by Oliver Sacks

In this extraordinary book, Dr. Oliver Sacks recounts the stories of patients struggling to adapt to often bizarre worlds of neurological disorder. Here are people who can no longer recognize everyday objects or those they love; who are stricken with violent tics or shout involuntary obscenities, and yet are gifted with unusually acute artistic or mathematical talents. If sometimes beyond our surface comprehension, these brilliant tales illuminate what it means to be human.



Enola Holmes: The Case of the Missing Marquess #1 by Nancy Springer

When Enola Holmes, much younger sister of detective Sherlock Holmes, discovers her mother has disappeared—and on her 14th birthday, to make matters worse—she knows she alone can find her. Disguising herself as a grieving widow, Enola sets out to the heart of London to uncover her mother's whereabouts—but not even the last name Holmes can prepare her for what awaits. Suddenly involved in the kidnapping of the young Marquess of Basilwether, Enola must escape murderous villains, free the spoiled Marquess, and perhaps hardest of all, elude her shrewd older brother—all while collecting clues to her mother's disappearance!

Vampire Diaries: The Awakening #1 by L. J. Smith

A Love Triangle of Unspeakable Horror... Elena Searching for the ultimate thrill, she vowed to have Stefan. Stefan Haunted by his tragic past, he struggled to resist her passion. Damon Driven by revenge, he hunted the brother who betrayed him. The terrifying story of two vampire brothers and the beautiful girl torn between them.



Vampire Diaries: The Struggle #2 by L. J. Smith

A Love Triangle of Unspeakable Horror... Damon. Determined to make Elena his queen of darkness, he'd kill his own brother to possess her. Stefan. Desperate for the power to destroy Damon, he succumbs to his thirst for human blood. Elena Irresistibly drawn to both brothers, her choice will decide their fate. The terrifying story of two vampire brothers and the beautiful girl torn between them.



We Were Liars #1 by E. Lockhart

A beautiful and distinguished family. A private island. A brilliant, damaged girl; a passionate, political boy. A group of four friends—the Liars—whose friendship turns destructive. A revolution. An accident. A secret. Lies upon lies. True love. The truth.

Macbeth by William Shakespeare

What he hears will change everything. Egged on by his wife, he decides to kill in order to gain the Scottish crown. How many people will have to die in Macbeth's pursuit of power? With armies, ghosts and magic against him, will Macbeth survive in this tale of greed and betrayal? Getting the crown is one thing - keeping it is quite another.

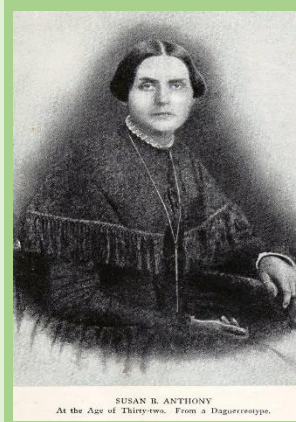
Our Sister, Again by Sophie Cameron

On a small island off the Scottish coast, Isla and her family are grieving the loss of her older sister Flora, who died three years ago. Then they're offered the chance to be part of a top-secret trial, which revives loved ones as fully lifelike AI robots using their digital footprint. Isla has her doubts about Second Chances, but they evaporate the moment the 'new' Flora arrives. This girl is not some uncanny close likeness; she is Flora - a perfect replica. But not everyone on their island feels the same. And as the threats to Flora mount, she grows distant and more secretive. Will Isla be able to protect the new Flora and bring the community back together?



On This Day... Susan B. Anthony was born 15th February 1820

Susan B. Anthony Day, celebrated every year on February 15, honours the birth and legacy of Susan Brownell Anthony, one of the most important leaders in the fight for women's rights in American history. Born in 1820 into a Quaker family that strongly believed in equality, Anthony was influenced from a young age by ideas of justice, fairness, and social responsibility. She became involved in the abolitionist movement to end slavery, working alongside leaders such as Frederick Douglass, and later supported causes like the temperance movement, which opposed alcohol abuse. When she was denied the chance to speak at a temperance convention simply because she was a woman, Anthony realized that women would never be treated equally in society unless they had the right to vote. This realisation led her to dedicate her life to women's suffrage, education, and labour rights. In 1851, she teamed up with Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and together they travelled across the country, gave speeches, organized petitions, published newspapers, and co-founded the National Woman Suffrage Association to demand voting and property rights for women.



Anthony even voted illegally in the 1872 presidential election to challenge unfair laws, which led to her arrest and brought national attention to the suffrage movement. Although she did not live to see the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920, which granted American women the right to vote, her tireless efforts made it possible. Today, Susan B. Anthony Day commemorates her lifelong commitment to equality and reminds us of the impact one determined individual can have on history.

Women's Suffrage by Peter Hicks

Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, brave women like Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony worked tirelessly to achieve equal voting rights for women. This factual and interesting approach to the topic uses primary sources to their fullest potential by including stirring speeches, fascinating articles, and period photography. Get readers inspired about exercising their rights by adding this chronicle of women's liberation to your collection.



February 14th is... Book Giving, Library Lover's and Black Literacy Day!

February 14th is not only the day of love, but for the day of book loving! International Book Giving Day was started in 2012 by Amy Broadmoore to help get more books into the hands of children and encourage a love of reading. With the help of other authors, bloggers, and volunteers, the event quickly grew and became a worldwide celebration supported by people like Emma Perry and Catherine Friess. The day focuses on sharing new, used, or borrowed books with children, especially those who may not have easy access to them. This is one event to expand your love of reading while helping your friends and family find their next perfect read! As well as this, Library Lovers' Day began in Australia in 2006 to celebrate libraries and encourage people to appreciate books and library services. What started as a local event soon became an international

celebration with fun themes each year, often held around Valentine's Day. Libraries mark the day with creative activities like writing love letters, sharing stories about libraries, and matching readers with books they might enjoy. Overall, Library Lovers' Day highlights the joy of reading and reminds people how important libraries are as welcoming spaces for learning and imagination. Expand on Book giving through the library by recommending some amazing reads to your friends! And last but not least, Black Literacy Day focuses on the first Black woman-owned bookstore, Semicolon, opened and quickly became an important cultural space for the community in Chicago, 2019. Its owner, D.L. Mullen, started the #ClearTheShelves campaign to give free books to Chicago schoolchildren and encourage a love of reading, especially in low-literacy neighbourhoods. To expand this effort, Mullen proposed a national holiday on Valentine's Day, a meaningful date that also aligns with Frederick Douglass's birthday and Black History Month in America. Her idea gained support from Chicago's mayor, and she continues working toward official recognition to promote literacy and community support.



Marley's Ghost by David Levithan

When Ben's girlfriend, Marly, dies, he feels his life is over and the prospect of Valentine's Day without her fills him with bitterness. But then Marly arrives -- or at least, her ghost does -- along with three other spirits. Now Ben must take a journey through Valentine's past, present and future -- and what he learns will change him forever.

Black Brother, Black Brother by Jewell Parker Rhodes

From award-winning and bestselling author, Jewell Parker Rhodes comes a powerful coming-of-age story about two brothers, one who presents as white, the other as black, and the complex ways in which they are forced to navigate the world, all while training for a fencing competition.

The Kindness of Strangers by Tony Green

This first full-scale production of Tony Green's work is a rich fabric of interlocking stories where hope blurs with survival, love with commerce, and sometimes kindness can be found in the strangest of places.

