



AUTUMN TERM

“Love takes off the masks we fear we cannot live without and know we cannot live within.” – James Baldwin

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

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Three Dark Crowns #2: One Dark Throne by Kendare Blake
The battle for the Crown has begun, but which of the three sisters will prevail? With the unforgettable events of the Quickening behind them and the Ascension Year underway, all bets are off. Katharine, once the weak and feeble sister, is stronger than ever before. Arsinoe, after discovering the truth about her powers, must figure out how to make her secret talent work in her favor without anyone finding out. And Mirabella, once thought to be the strongest sister of all and the certain Queen Crowned, faces attacks like never before—ones that put those around her in danger she can't seem to prevent.



Three Dark Crowns #3: Two Dark Reigns by Kendare Blake
Queen Katharine has waited her entire life to wear the crown. But now that she finally has it, the murmurs of dissent grow louder by the day. There's also the alarming issue of whether or not her sisters are actually dead—or if they're waiting in the wings to usurp the throne. Mirabella and Arsinoe are alive, but in hiding on the mainland and dealing with a nightmare of their own: being visited repeatedly by a specter they think might be the fabled Blue Queen. Though she says nothing, her rotting, bony finger pointing out to sea is clear enough: return to Fennim. Jules, too, is in a strange place—in disguise. And her only confidants, a war-gifted girl named Emilia and her oracle friend Mathilde, are urging her to take on a role she can't imagine filling: a legion-cursed queen who will lead a rebel army to Katharine's doorstep. This is an uprising that the mysterious Blue Queen may have more to do with than anyone could have guessed—or expected.



Queenie by Jacqueline Wilson
It's 1953, the year Elizabeth is to be crowned Queen of England. Elsie Kettle can't wait to go to London with her beloved nan to see the Coronation Day celebrations. Then tragedy strikes. Nan and Elsie both fall ill with tuberculosis and Elsie is whisked away to the children's ward of Milltree Hospital. Confined to bed for months, Elsie misses Nan desperately, and struggles to adapt to the hospital's strict rules. But every night after lights-out she tells magical tales of adventure to the other children on the ward. For the first time, Elsie finds herself surrounded by true friends - including Queenie, the hospital's majestic white cat. Finally Elsie is well enough to leave the hospital. But before she does, she has one very special, very unexpected visitor...

Youthquake: Why African Demography Should Matter to the World by Edward Paice
A riveting study of Africa's demographics – its youth and growth – and what they mean for the continent, today and into the future. Africa's population growth in the last 50 years has been unprecedented. By mid-century, the continent will make up a quarter of the global population, compared to one-tenth in 1980. By the end of the century, the proportion could be as much as 40 per cent. This is a mega-trend that should not be ignored. Africa's youth is the most striking aspect of its demography. As the rest of the world ages, and the population of many countries starts to shrink, almost 60 per cent of Africa's population is younger than 25 years old. This 'youthquake' will have immense consequences for the social, economic and political reality in Africa. Edward Paice presents a detailed, nuanced analysis of the varied demography of Africa. He rejects the fanciful over-optimism of some commentators and doom-laden prophecies of others, while scrutinising received wisdom, and carefully considering the ramifications of the youthquake for Africa and the world.

Can You Solve My Problems? By Alex Bellos
Are you smarter than a Singaporean ten-year-old? Can you beat Sherlock Holmes? If you think the answer is yes - I challenge you to solve my problems. Here is the story of the puzzle, one of mankind's oldest and greatest forms of entertainment and enlightenment, told through 125 of the world's best brainteasers from the last two millennia. It takes us from ancient China to medieval Europe, Victorian England to modern-day Japan, with stories of espionage, mathematical breakthroughs and puzzling rivalries along the way. You'll pit your wits against logic puzzles and kinship riddles, pangrams and river-crossing conundrums. Some solutions rely on a touch of cunning, others call for creativity, others need mercilessly logical thought. Some can only be solved by 2% of the population. All are guaranteed to sharpen your mind. Let's get puzzling...



November's MOST POPULAR BOOKS

- 1** *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* by Holly Jackson
- 2** *The Secret History* by Donna Tartt
- 3** *Harry Potter & The Chamber of Secrets* by JK Rowling
- 4** *Maus* by Art Spiegelman
- 5** *Circe* by Madeline Miller
- 6** *They Both Die at the End* by Adam Silvera
- 7** *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini
- 8** *The Devil Makes Three* by Tori Bovalino

STAR BORROWERS OF THE MONTH

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

Year 7

- Neevh 7N
- Florence 7N
- Abigail 7N
- Amelie 7N
- Lea 7N
- Khushi 7N
- Anisah 7W
- Ananya 7W
- Electra 7W
- Simran 7W
- Denosha 7S

Year 8

- Merisha 7F
- Tripti 7F
- Dia 7F
- Zainab 7F
- Aarushi 7F
- Jasmine 7F
- Fiona 7F
- Ariadne 7F
- Sophie 7G
- Mariam 7P
- Naomi 7P
- Jemima 7P

Year 8

- Kyra 8N
- Akshara 8W
- Ashwathi 8S
- Charlotte 8S
- Reika 8S
- Nmesoma 8S
- Ithaa 8S
- Senumi 8S
- Imaan 8F
- Avni 8F
- Rose 8F

Year 8

- Veda 8F
- Anushka 8F
- Sara 8F
- Riya 8G
- Yasmin 8G
- Anjali 8G
- Tarika 8G
- Isla 8G
- Aksha 8P
- Hannah 8P

Year 9

- Layla 9N
- Aleena 9W
- Veronica 9W
- Lola 9S
- Sophiyaa 9S
- Eunice 9S
- Leila 9S
- Precious 9F
- Abigail 9F
- Christina 9G
- Kurangi 9G
- Keerthana 9G

Year 10

- Tanisha 10N
- Ariane 10N
- Oluwatoni 10W
- Kelechi 10W
- Finn 10F
- Nandana 10G
- Kierujaa 10G
- Isabelle 10P
- Anthiya 10P
- Lucy 10P
- Lizzy 10P

Year 11

- Aayushi 11W
- Sorena 11S
- Klementyna 11S
- Jia 11P

Year 13

- Nana 13N
- Aimee 13N
- Rowan 13S
- Imaan 13P

library Ornament Competition

Design and make a book/literature-themed ornament for the library (can be any material).

Bring your ornament up to the library by **Monday 18th of December** to be in with a chance of winning.

1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes to be won!

3rd December - International Day of Persons With Disabilities



The International Day of Persons with Disabilities was first observed in 1992 (under the name the International Day of Disabled Persons) with the aim of promoting "the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development, and to increase awareness of the situation of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life." The population of the world today is

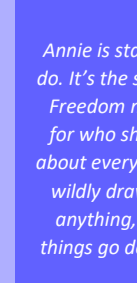
over 8 billion, with more than 1 billion people (or roughly 15% of the population) living with some form of disability. Of that figure, 80% live in developing countries. The United Nations, who promote the day, define a disability as "a condition or function judged to be significantly impaired relative to the usual standard of an individual of their group." Each year, there is a theme for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, with the theme for 2023 being "united in action to rescue and achieve the sustainable development goals for, with and by persons with disabilities." More information can be found [here](https://www.un.org/en/observances/3-december). In terms of literature, a 2019 [study](https://www.un.org/en/observances/3-december) found that only 3.4% of children's books have disabled main characters, which seems incongruous when another [survey](https://www.un.org/en/observances/3-december) found that 11% of children in the UK have a disability. No such statistic for books for young adults or adults appears to have been published. Below are some fiction books available in the library featuring main characters with disabilities.



The First Move by Jenny Ireland
Juliet believes girls like her - girls with arthritis - don't get their own love stories. She exists at the edges of her friends' social lives, skipping parties to play online chess under a pseudonym with strangers around the world. There, she isn't just 'the girl with crutches'. Ronan is the new kid: good looking, smart, a bad boy plagued by guilt over what happened to his brother Claran. Chesslife is his escape; there, he's not just 'the boy with the brother'. Juliet thinks Ronan thinks someone like Ronan could never be interested in someone like her - and she wouldn't want him to be anyway because he always acts like he's cooler than everyone else. Whereas, Ronan thinks life is already too complicated for dating and just wants to keep his head down at school.



Six of Crows by Leigh Bardugo
Ketterdam: a bustling hub of international trade where anything can be had for the right price—and no one knows that better than criminal prodigy Kaz Brekker. Kaz is offered a chance at a deadly heist that could make him rich beyond his wildest dreams. But he can't pull it off alone... A convict with a thirst for revenge, a sharpshooter who can't walk away from a wager, a runaway with a privileged past, a spy who can be the Wrath, a Heartreaver using her magic to survive the slums, a thief with a gift for unlikely escapes. Six dangerous outcasts. One impossible heist. Kaz's crew is the only thing that might stand between the world and destruction—if they don't kill each other first.



Truly, Wildly, Deeply by Jenny McLachlan
Annie is starting college. She can't wait. No more school, no more uniform, and no one telling her what to do. It's the start of a new adventure and Annie's not going to let anyone or anything get in the way of that. Freedom matters to Annie. She has cerebral palsy and she's had to fight hard to get the world to see her for who she truly is. Then she meets Fab. He's six foot two, Polish and a passionate believer in... well, just about everything, but most of all Annie and good old fashioned romance. The moment Fab sees Annie, he's wildly drawn to her and declares she must be his girl. Annie's horrified. She doesn't want to be anyone's anything, especially if it means losing her independence. But then Annie finds herself falling for Fab. As things go deeply wrong, Annie realises that love can make you do wild, crazy things, and so she sets out to win his heart with a romantic gesture of truly epic proportions!

On This Day in History... The Death of James Baldwin, 1st December 1987



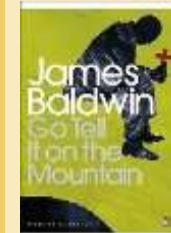
James Baldwin, born 2nd August 1924, was an American civil rights activist and author. Over the course of his life, Baldwin published 6 novels, 10 short stories, 7 plays and poems, and well over 100 essays. Some main themes across his works are masculinity, sexuality, race, and class. As a Black, gay man, Baldwin was interested in the intersection between these two characteristics and the protagonists in his fiction were largely African American, gay/ bisexual men who often faced internal and external obstacles in their search for social and self-acceptance.

James Baldwin was the eldest of nine siblings who grew up in poverty in Harlem, New York. Between the ages of 14 and 16 he was a preacher at a small revivalist church, a period he went on to write about in his semi-autobiographical first novel, *Go Tell It on the Mountain*. Baldwin wrote his second novel, *Giovanni's Room*, during the eight years he lived in Paris (1948-1956). This novel deals with the white world and follows an American in Paris torn between his love for a man, and his love for a woman. In 1957, he returned to the United States and became an active participant in the civil rights struggle that was sweeping the nation. His book of essays, *Nobody Knows My Name* was published in 1961 and explores Black-white relations in America. In 1972 *The New Yorker* magazine gave over almost all of its November issue to an article by Baldwin on the Black Muslim separatist movement and other aspects of the civil rights struggle, the article later became a best seller in book form as *The Fire Next Time*. Baldwin was a prolific writer until his death from stomach cancer in 1987. He is buried at the Ferncliff Cemetery in Hartsdale, near New York City. His influence and legacy are long lasting and profound with his work and words frequently referenced and quoted to this day.

Find out more about the life of James Baldwin [here](https://www.baldwin.org/).

Go Tell It On the Mountain by James Baldwin (Recommended for Older Readers)

Go Tell It on the Mountain, first published in 1953, is Baldwin's first major work, a semi-autobiographical novel that has established itself as an American classic. With lyrical precision, psychological directness, resonating symbolic power, and a rage that is at once unrelenting and compassionate, Baldwin chronicles a fourteen-year-old boy's discovery of the terms of his identity as the stepson of the minister of a storefront Pentecostal church in Harlem one Saturday in March of 1935. Baldwin's rendering of his protagonist's spiritual, sexual, and moral struggle of self-invention opened new possibilities in the American language and in the way Americans understand themselves.



Giovanni's Room by James Baldwin (Recommended for Older Readers)

Giovanni's Room is set in the Paris of the 1950s, where a young American expatriate finds himself caught between his repressed desires and conventional morality. David has just proposed marriage to his American girlfriend, but while she is away on a trip he becomes involved in a doomed affair with a bartender named Giovanni. With sharp, probing insight, James Baldwin's classic narrative delves into the mystery of love and tells an impassioned, deeply moving story that reveals the unspoken complexities of the human heart.

Exhibition Honouring Malorie Blackman's Career Opens at the British Library



A British Library exhibition called Malorie Blackman: The Power of Stories has opened to the public. The exhibition is free to enter and will be running until February 2024. Malorie Blackman is one of the UK's most popular writers for children and young people, having published more than 60 children's and young adult books across her career as well as holding the position of Children's Laureate from 2013 to 2015.

The exhibit is divided into sections focusing on Representation, Claiming a Voice, Noughts & Crosses, and Legacies. Each section includes an introductory film narrated by Blackman as well as material from her own archive including a ring binder of over 80 rejection letters from publishers, a copy of the first draft of *Noughts and Crosses* that was sent to Penguin Random House in 1999, and her Children's Laureate medal.

Malorie Blackman said of the exhibition: "Libraries are the great equaliser and, without them, literacy would become the province of the lucky few, rather than the birth right of everyone... I wouldn't be a writer if it wasn't for my local library, and I hope this exhibition in the national library of the UK shows that every child has the right to be seen and need to be heard in literature."

Read more about the exhibition [here](https://www.britishlibrary.org/exhibitions/malorie-blackman).

Noughts and Crosses by Malorie Blackman

Two young people are forced to make a stand in this thought-provoking look at racism and prejudice in an alternate society. Sephy is a Cross – a member of the dark-skinned ruling class. Callum is a Nought – a "colourless" member of the underclass who were once slaves to the Crosses. The two have been friends since early childhood, but that's as far as it can go. In their world, Noughts and Crosses simply don't mix. Against a background of prejudice and distrust, intensely highlighted by violent terrorist activity, a romance builds between Sephy and Callum – a romance that is to lead both of them into terrible danger. Can they possibly find a way to be together?

