



AUTUMN TERM

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

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Yoto Carnegie 2024 Nominees Announced

On Monday 6th November, the nominees were announced for the 2024 Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing. Each nominated book will now be read by all 12 members of the 2024 judging panel, comprised of experienced librarians. The judges will then decide on a longlist, and subsequently a shortlist from the nominated books. The longlist will be announced on 13th February, and the shortlist will be announced on 13th March. Below are the books from the list of nominees that are currently available in the library.

View the full list of nominees [here](#).

Happyhead by Josh Silver

We are in an epidemic. An epidemic of unhappiness. Friends, here is the good news: HappyHead has the answer. When Seb is offered a place on a radical retreat designed to solve the national crisis of teenage unhappiness, he is determined to change how people see him and make his parents proud. But as he finds himself drawn to the enigmatic Finn, Seb starts to question the true nature of the challenges they must undergo. The deeper into the programme the boys get, the more disturbing the assessments become, until it's clear there may be no escape...



Like a Charm #2: Like a Curse by Elle McNicoll

Stuck in Loch Ness while Edinburgh falls under the control of a terrifyingly powerful Siren, Ramya Knox is frustrated. She's supposed to be learning magic from her Aunt Opal, but that isn't going as smoothly as she'd hoped. As she pushes to rescue her Hidden Folk friends in the city, long-buried secrets come to light and legends come to life. Ramya knows she's different; she knows she's a witch. But now she must learn the true meaning of her powers... before all she loves is lost



Gwen and Art are Not in Love by Lex Croucher

It's been hundreds of years since King Arthur's reign. His descendant, Arthur, a future Lord and general gadabout, has been betrothed to Gwendoline, the quick-witted, short-tempered princess of England, since birth. The only thing they can agree on is that they despise each other. They're forced to spend the summer together at Camelot in the run-up to their nuptials, and within 24 hours, Gwen has discovered Arthur kissing a boy, and Arthur has gone digging for Gwen's childhood diary and found confessions about her crush on the kingdom's only lady knight, Bridget Leclair. Realizing they might make better allies than enemies, Gwen and Art make a reluctant pact to cover for each other, and as things heat up at the annual royal tournament, Gwen is swept off her feet by her knight, and Arthur takes an interest in Gwen's royal brother. Lex Croucher's Gwen & Art are Not in Love is chock full of sword-fighting, found family, and romantic shenanigans destined to make readers fall in love.

What the World Doesn't See by Mel Darbon

Run away from what they see. Discover who you are. Maudie and Jake's family is falling to pieces - their mum's been struggling with her grief since they lost Dad and one night she vanishes. When Jake is put into care, Maudie can't take it any more. She comes up with a wild plan to pull their family back together - by kidnapping Jake. On the run in Cornwall, Jake and Maudie each find something they hadn't expected - freedom and love. But can they find Mum and a way to heal together? A powerful and insightful novel about grief, disability and first love; a story about getting lost and finding yourself.



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 Ciaran. 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.

Nineteen Wonderful New Maths Books in the Library Thanks to Nella's Jack Petchey Donation

"The Maths Department are thrilled to announce that there are now a whole host of new maths books in the library thanks to the Jack Petchey grant that was awarded to Nella Djurdjevic in Year 13. Titles range from 'Alex's Adventures in Numberland' to 'The Infinite Book' to 'How to Study for a Mathematics Degree' as well as a range of books from the UKMT (United Kingdom Mathematics Trust). We hope students across all year groups can get stuck into reading about all sorts of maths beyond the curriculum! Thank you again to Nella for choosing the maths department for the Jack Petchey grant." – Miss Wheeler



"It is not the brains that matter most, but that which guides them — the character, the heart, generous qualities, progressive ideas." – Fyodor Dostoevsky

NEW

Once Upon a Broken Heart #2: The Ballad of Never After by Stephanie Garber

Not every love is meant to be. After Jacks, the Prince of Hearts, betrays her, Evangeline Fox swears she'll never trust him again. Now that she's discovered her own magic, Evangeline believes she can use it to restore the chance at happily ever after that Jacks stole away. But when a new terrifying curse is revealed, Evangeline finds herself entering into a tenuous partnership with the Prince of Hearts again. Only this time, the rules have changed. Jacks isn't the only force Evangeline needs to be wary of. In fact, he might be the only one she can trust, despite her desire to despise him. Instead of a love spell wreaking havoc on Evangeline's life, a murderous spell has been cast. To break it, Evangeline and Jacks will have to do battle with old friends, new foes, and a magic that plays with heads and hearts. Evangeline has always trusted her heart, but this time she's not sure she can...



Percy Jackson #6: The Chalice of the Gods by Rick Riordan

Percy Jackson, modern-day son of Poseidon, is just trying to get through high school. After saving the world multiple times by battling monsters, Titans, and giants, Percy is now settling in at Alternative High School in New York, where he hopes to finally have a normal senior year. Unfortunately, the gods aren't quite done with him yet. Poseidon breaks the bad news that if Percy expects to get into New Rome University, he will have to fulfil three quests in order to earn the necessary three letters of recommendation from Mount Olympus. The first task is to help Ganymede, Zeus's cupbearer, retrieve his golden goblet before it falls into the wrong hands. You see, one sip from it can turn a mortal into a god, and Zeus would not be pleased with that result. Can Percy and his friends Grover and Annabeth find the precious cup in time? And if they do, will they be able to resist its special power?

Super-Infinite: The Transformations of John Donne by Katherine Rundell

From standout scholar Katherine Rundell, Super-Infinite presents a sparkling and very modern biography of John Donne: the poet of love, sex, and death. Sometime religious outsider and social disaster, sometime celebrity preacher and establishment darling, John Donne was incapable of being just one thing. In his myriad lives he was a scholar of law, a sea adventurer, a priest, an MP - and perhaps the greatest love poet in the history of the English language. Along the way he converted from Catholicism to Protestantism, was imprisoned for marrying a sixteen-year old girl without her father's consent; struggled to feed a family of ten children; and was often ill and in pain. He was a man who suffered from black surges of misery, yet expressed in his verse many breathtaking impressions of electric joy and love.



Never Work with Animals by Gareth Steel

Gareth Steel wants you to understand vets in a way you never could have before. How it feels to watch a healed dog bound into their owner's arms. The joy of breathing life into the fluid-filled lungs of a newborn calf after a difficult labour. The satisfaction of rescuing a distressed sheep from the high-tide line. Steel has been a vet for nearly twenty years and has worked all over the UK, across both rural and city practices, dealing with all manner of household pets and farm animals. This is his fascinating raw account of just how involved the job is and the toll the extreme emotions that come with it can take, but it also a heart-warming and often humorous story of the desperate lengths we go to for the love of animals.

The Sun and the Void by Gabriela Romero-Lacruz

(Recommended for older readers)

Reina is desperate. Stuck living on the edges of society, her only salvation lies in an invitation from a grandmother she's never known. But the journey is dangerous, and prayer can't always avert disaster. Attacked by creatures that stalk the region, Reina is on the verge of death until her grandmother, a dark sorceress, intervenes. Now dependent on the Doña's magic for her life, Reina will do anything to earn—and keep—her favour. Even the bidding of an ancient god who whispers to her at night. Eva Kesare is unwanted. Illegitimate and of mixed heritage, Eva is her family's shame. She tries her best to be perfect and to hide her oddities. But Eva is hiding a secret: magic calls to her. Eva knows she should fight the temptation. Magic is the sign of the dark god, and using it is punishable by death. Yet, it's hard to deny power when it has always been denied to you. Eva is walking a dangerous path, one that gets stranger every day. And, in the end, she'll become something she never imagined.

Bodleian Library to Award Sir Philip Pullman the Bodley Medal



The Bodley Medal is the highest honour awarded by Oxford University's Bodleian Library. The Medal is awarded to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the worlds of books & literature, libraries, media & communications, and science & philanthropy. The Medal was first presented in 2002 with previous recipients including Hilary Mantel (2013), Ian McEwan (2015), Professor Mary Beard (2016), and Kazuo Ishiguro (2019).

Sir Philip Pullman was awarded his Bodley Medal on the 9th of November in a ceremony at the Sheldonian Theatre. He gave a talk about his life, as well as his work with Richard Ovenden who is the current Bodley's Librarian (the title given to the head librarian at the Bodleian Library).

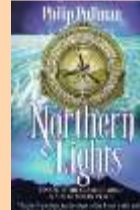
In honour of the award, the library commissioned artist Bryony Jennings to create a Bodleian daemon (right) – it's a pine marten, like Lyra's (the heroine of Pullman's *His Dark Materials* trilogy). The Bodleian Library Twitter/X account is running a competition to name the daemon. Click [here](#) to submit an entry. N.B. you must be over 13 to use Twitter/X.



The Bodleian Library is one of the oldest libraries in Europe, having been opened in 1602. It is also the second largest library in Britain, coming second only to the British Library in London.

Northern Lights by Philip Pullman

When Lyra's friend Roger disappears, she and her daemon, Pantalaimon, determine to find him. The ensuing quest leads them to the bleak splendour of the North, where armoured bears rule the ice and witch-queens fly through the frozen skies - and where a team of scientists is conducting experiments too horrible to be spoken about. Lyra overcomes these strange terrors, only to find something yet more perilous waiting for her - something with consequences which may even reach beyond the Northern Lights...



The Subtle Knife by Philip Pullman

Lyra finds herself in a shimmering, haunted otherworld - Cittagazze, where soul-eating Spectres stalk the streets and wingbeats of distant angels sound against the sky. But she is not without allies: twelve-year-old Will Parry, fleeing for his life after taking another's, has also stumbled into this strange new realm. On a perilous journey from world to world, Lyra and Will uncover a deadly secret: an object of extraordinary and devastating power. And with every step, they move closer to an even greater threat - and the shattering truth of their own destiny.



Dagger Awards Adds New Categories



The Daggers, otherwise known as The Crime Writer's Association Awards, have been running since 1955. The Awards currently recognise authors across nine categories including historical crime, translated crime, and lifetime contribution to crime writing. From 2024, there will be two additional categories: the Twisted Dagger Award for psychological thrillers, and the Whodunnit Dagger Award for cosy crime. The change has been made due to the growth in popularity of the two subgenres. Cosy crime is generally defined as a subgenre in which sex and violence occur off stage, the detective is an amateur sleuth, and the crime and detection take place in a small, socially intimate community. Authors frequently associated with cosy crime include Agatha Christie, The Reverend Richard Coles, and Richard Osman. Osman's *Thursday Murder Club* series is credited with kicking off the modern renaissance of cosy crime, which was previously most associated with Golden Age crime novels (those published in the 1920s and 30s).

Regarding the new award for psychological thrillers, chair of the Crime Writer's Association Vaseem Khan, who took on the role this year, said "always clear [that there were] glaring omissions in the Dagger roster ... psychological thrillers dominate the crime fiction landscape - and have helped redress the gender imbalance in the genre - but there was no Dagger specifically aimed at this incredibly popular segment of the market." Read the original Guardian article by David Barnett [here](#).

The Thursday Murder Club #4: The Last Devil to Die by Richard Osman

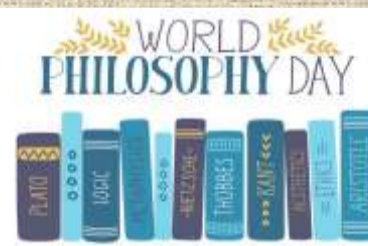
Shocking news reaches the Thursday Murder Club. An old friend in the antiques business has been killed, and a dangerous package he was protecting has gone missing. As the gang springs into action they encounter art forgers, online fraudsters and drug dealers, as well as heartache close to home. With the body count rising, the package still missing and trouble firmly on their tail, has their luck finally run out? And who will be the last devil to die?



Murder Before Evensong by The Reverend Richard Coles

Canon Daniel Clement is Rector of Champton. He has been there for eight years, living at the Rectory alongside his widowed mother - opinionated, fearless, ever-so-slightly annoying Audrey - and his two dachshunds, Cosmo and Hilda. When Daniel announces a plan to install a lavatory in church, the parish is suddenly (and unexpectedly) divided: as lines are drawn, long-buried secrets come dangerously close to destroying the apparent calm of the village. And then Anthony Bowness - cousin to Bernard de Fluores, patron of Champton - is found dead at the back of the church, stabbed in the neck with a pair of secateurs. As the police moves in and the bodies start piling up, Daniel is the only one who can try and keep his fractured community together... and catch a killer.

16th November - World Philosophy Day



Philosophy can be defined as "the study of the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and existence, especially when considered as an academic discipline" or "a theory or attitude that acts as a guiding principle for behaviour." World Philosophy Day, created by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), is celebrated each year on the third Thursday of November in order to underline the

"enduring value of philosophy for the development of human thought, for each culture and for each individual." UNESCO's director general Audrey Azoulay said: "Philosophy is... essential when it comes to defining the ethical principles that should guide humanity." Below are some famous thought experiments to consider on World Philosophy Day.

Famous Thought Experiments:

- **'The Ship of Theseus'** - This thought experiment raises questions about the nature of identity and continuity over time. It is summarised by the question, "If a ship's parts are all replaced over time, is it still the same ship?" The experiment makes us wonder if something can endure significant change while remaining essentially the same, and how we can tell when something has altered fundamentally enough to be the same thing no longer.
- **'The Trolley Problem'** - This is a famous ethical thought experiment that challenges the ethics of sacrificing one life to save many others. The experiment is usually worded something like this: "You're standing next to a tram track, watching as a runaway tram approaches five people who are chained to the track and unable to escape. However, if you notice a nearby lever, the tram would be diverted onto a different track, killing the person connected to that track in its place. What do you do?"
- **'The Experience Machine'** - Posing significant questions concerning the origins of happiness, and the worth of genuine experiences, The Experience Machine thought experiment is as follows: Imagine there exists a machine that can simulate perfect life experiences, where one can feel and experience anything they desire without suffering any consequences. They couldn't tell the difference between the simulation and the real world since this ideal life simulation would be so believable. Then, this experiment asks whether you would plug into this machine and spend the rest of your life in the virtual world.

Discover more thought experiments [here](#).

Find out more about World Philosophy Day [here](#).

The Pig That Wants to Be Eaten: and Ninety Nine Other Thought Experiments by Julian Baggini

The author presents 100 thought experiments which pose a problem in a vivid and concrete way, and invites the reader to think about possible answers for him/herself. Experiments cover identity, religion, art, ethics, language, knowledge and many more. Baggini offers some ways of approaching each problem.



The Story of Philosophy by Brian Magee

World-renowned philosopher and professor Bryan Magee expertly guides your exploration through the major philosophical issues, the important questions, and the key contributions of the great philosophers in this illustrated, accessible guide. Discover the great thinkers in their historical contexts and learn the influences that shaped their lives and work. Each philosophical movement includes profiles of key philosophers and their important works, historical contexts and influences, important quotes, and other related people and ideas.

Philosophy for Beginners by Rachel Firth et al

Philosophy is a way of thinking about just about anything. It asks big questions from nature of reality to what beauty is. Using lively examples and thought experiments, this book provides an accessible introduction to a wide range of philosophical questions and invites the reader think about things in ways they may not have done before. Cartoons, comic strips and diagrams offer simple explanations of big ideas. Suitable for adults and children alike – a brilliant resource for anyone looking to learn about philosophy. Explores big questions in philosophy including the nature of morality, do we have free will, whether knowledge is really possible and how we can justify government.



The Philosophy Book by Will Buckingham et al

The Philosophy Book explains more than one hundred of the greatest ideas in philosophy through clear, succinct text and easy-to-follow graphics. Using straightforward graphics and artworks, as well as thoroughly accessible text that elucidates more than two thousand years of philosophical thought, The Philosophy Book makes abstract concepts concrete. From moral ethics to the philosophies of religions, The Philosophy Book sheds a light on the famous ideas and thinkers from the ancient world through the present day. Including theories from Pythagoras to Voltaire and Mary Wollstonecraft to Noam Chomsky, The Philosophy Book offers anyone with an interest in philosophy an essential resource to the great philosophers and the views that have shaped our society.