



SPRING

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



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"Culture and education are the lethal weapons against all kinds of fundamentalism." – Marjane Satrapi

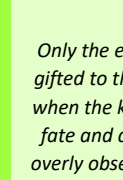
NEW



XOXO by Axie Oh
Cello prodigy Jenny has one goal: to get into a prestigious music conservatory. When she meets mysterious, handsome Jaewoo in her uncle's Los Angeles karaoke bar, it's clear he's the kind of boy who would uproot her careful plans. But in a moment of spontaneity, she allows him to pull her out of her comfort zone for one unforgettable night of adventure...before he disappears without a word. Three months later, when Jenny and her mother arrive in South Korea to take care of her ailing grandmother, she's shocked to discover that Jaewoo is a student at the same elite arts academy where she's enrolled for the semester. And he's not just any student. He's a member of one of the biggest K-pop bands in the world—and he's strictly forbidden from dating. When a relationship means just how much she's spent years mapping out, she'll have to decide once and for all just how much she's willing to risk for love.



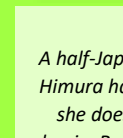
Impossible Creatures by Katherine Rundell
A boy called Christopher is visiting his reclusive grandfather when he witnesses an avalanche of mythical creatures come tearing down the hill. This is how Christopher learns that his grandfather is the guardian of one of the ways between the non-magical world and a place called the Archipelago, a cluster of magical islands where all the creatures we tell of in myth live and breed and thrive alongside humans. They have been protected from being discovered for thousands of years; now, terrifyingly, the protection has worn thin, and creatures are breaking through. Then a girl, Mal, appears in Christopher's world. She is in possession of a flying coat, is being pursued by a killer and is herself in pursuit of a baby griffin. Mal, Christopher and the griffin embark on an urgent quest across the wild splendour of the Archipelago, where sphinxes hold secrets and centaurs do murder, to find the truth—with unimaginable consequences for both their worlds. Together the two must face the problem of power, and of knowledge, and of what love demands of us.



Powerless by Lauren Roberts
Only the extraordinary belong in the kingdom of Ilya—the exceptional, the empowered, the Elites. The powers these Elites have possessed for decades were graciously gifted to them by the Plague, though not all were fortunate enough to both survive the sickness and reap the reward. Those born Ordinary are just that—ordinary. And when the king decreed that all Ordinaries be banished in order to preserve his Elite society, lacking an ability suddenly became a crime—making Paedyn Gray a felon by fate and a thief by necessity. Surviving in the slums as an Ordinary is no simple task, and Paedyn knows this better than most. Having been trained by her father to be overly observant since she was a child, Paedyn poses as a Psychic in the crowded city, blending in with the Elites as best she can in order to stay alive and out of trouble. Easier said than done. When Paedyn unsuspectingly saves one of Ilya's princes, she finds herself thrown into the Purging Trials. The brutal competition exists to showcase the Elites' powers—the very thing Paedyn lacks. If the Trials and the opponents within them don't kill her, the prince she's fighting feelings for certainly will if he discovers what she is—completely Ordinary.



The Teenage Girl's Guide to Living Well with ADHD: Improve your Self-Esteem, Self-Care and Self Knowledge by Sonia Ali
Have you ever been told you are chatty or fidgety at school? Do you have a constantly whirring mind? Do you 'tune out' and daydream or find it hard to pay attention? ADHD can impact your life in many ways. This positive, self-affirming guide will increase your knowledge about ADHD and empower you in your daily life. The chapters are full of tips, tricks and life hacks so you can better manage your time, harness your creativity, energy and enthusiasm, and make more time for fun! Reflection activities and quizzes will help you better understand yourself and learn strategies on how to manage the intense emotions of rejection sensitivity. You'll learn the fundamentals of great self-care and how to look forward to life beyond school. Learn how ADHD brains work, and tricky concepts like executive functioning. Quick chapter summaries let you pick which sections are most relevant to you right now, and the strategies and visuals are designed for ADHD brains and can be used with support from parents, mentors or teachers. The Teenage Girl's Guide to Living Well with ADHD gives you all you need to build on your strengths and overcome challenges to fully embrace who you are and live your best life.

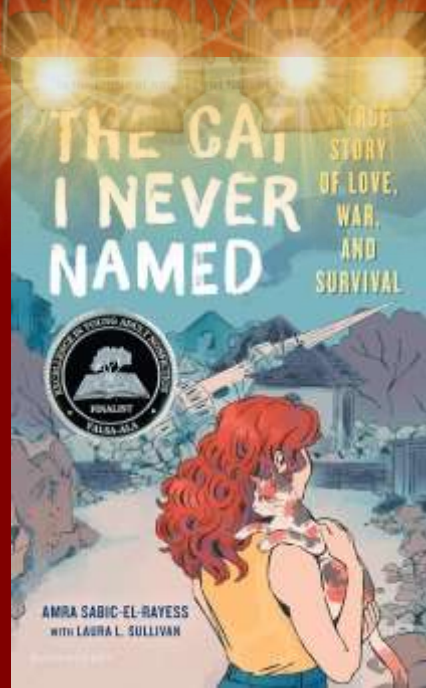


Starfish by Akemi Dawn Bowman
A half-Japanese teen grapples with social anxiety and her narcissist mother in the wake of a crushing rejection from art school in this debut novel. Kiko Himura has always had a hard time saying exactly what she's thinking. With a mother who makes her feel unremarkable and a half-Japanese heritage she doesn't quite understand, Kiko prefers to keep her head down, certain that once she makes it into her dream art school, Prism, her real life will begin. But then Kiko doesn't get into Prism, at the same time her abusive uncle moves back in with her family. So when she receives an invitation from her childhood friend to leave her small town and tour art schools on the west coast, Kiko jumps at the opportunity in spite of the anxieties and fears that attempt to hold her back. And now that she is finally free to be her own person outside the constricting walls of her home life, Kiko learns life-changing truths about herself, her past, and how to be brave. From debut author Akemi Dawn Bowman comes a luminous, heart-breaking story of identity, family, and the beauty that emerges when we embrace our true selves.



Nuclear and Particle Physics by Bryan Milner
Nuclear and Particle Physics has been endorsed by OCR for use with the OCR Physics specification A. It provides full coverage of the Physics option module of the same name. In combination with other books in the series it provides full coverage of the Advanced Level specifications. Learning objectives are clearly defined, so that students know exactly what they need to learn. Self-assessment questions (with answers) and example end-of-chapter exercises offer excellent opportunities for independent study. Chapter introductions and summaries provide the basis for structured revision. Full-colour illustration and student-friendly design make the science accessible to all.

Wish List Spotlight:



The Cat I Never Named: A True Story of Love, War, and Survival by Amra Sabic-El-Rayess and Laura L Sullivan

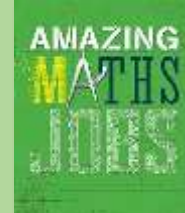
It is 1992 and Bihac, Amra's hometown, is a multicultural city with Muslims, Croats, and Serbs. But when tensions escalate, the Serbs turn on their Bosnian neighbors. The Serbs control the army, and now they have peaceful Bihac surrounded. Soon Amra and her family are dealing with starvation and the threat of brutal violence; school, friendships, and the attentions from a new boy have to take a back seat to finding food and the tragic fallout from rising bigotry and ethnic hatred. Through it all, a stray cat, Maci, serves as a guardian spirit to the entire family.

23rd March – World Maths Day

World Maths Day, first observed in 2007, is a 48-hour online maths event powered by online learning platform Mathematics, and free for all students aged 5-18. In its first year, 287,000 students across 98 countries participated in the competition, and since then it has grown in popularity. World Maths Day involves participants playing 20 x 60-second games. A number of awards are offered to the students who take part and for those who do well in the event. Additionally, the champions and the top ten students in the world are awarded gold medals every year. Click [here](#) for more information.

Maths Facts:

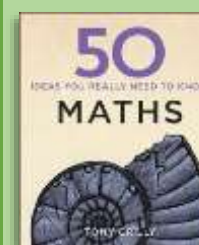
- In Roman numerals, there is no numeral to represent 0, and instead the word 'nulla' would be written.
- Most mathematical symbols weren't invented until the 16th century. Before that, equations were written in words.
- 'Forty' is the only number that is spelt with letters arranged in alphabetical order.
- 'Four' is the only number in the English language that is spelt with the same number of letters as the number itself.
- A googolplex is 10 to the power of 10 to the power of 100. Our known universe doesn't have enough space to actually write that out on paper.
- 2,520 is the first and hence, the smallest number that is divisible by all numbers from 1 to 10.
- If you folded a piece of paper in half 103 times it would be the thickness of the observable universe
- Very often, the number 1 is confused as a prime number but dividing 1 by 1, you get 1. Nothing has been divided.



Amazing Maths Jobs by Colin Hynson
Discover the amazing array of jobs within the field of maths that you never knew existed! From the cryptologists who use their coding skills to break secret codes for governments and the military, to the cosmologists working to find out how the Universe began and how it might end and the music data scientists who analyse online data to detect trends in music. Read about the academic and vocational routes you can take to reach these jobs and how to get ahead in these exciting professions whilst you are at school and college.

50 Maths Ideas You Really Need to Know by Tony Crilly

Who invented zero? Why 60 seconds in a minute? How big is infinity? Where do parallel lines meet? And can a butterfly's wings really cause a storm on the far side of the world? In 50 Maths Ideas You Really Need to Know, Professor Tony Crilly explains in 50 clear and concise essays the mathematical concepts - ancient and modern, theoretical and practical, everyday and esoteric - that allow us to understand and shape the world around us. Packed with diagrams, examples and anecdotes, this book is the perfect overview of this often daunting but always essential subject. For once, mathematics couldn't be simpler.



Jhalak Prize 2024 Children's and Young Adult (YA) Longlist Announced

The long list for this year's Children's and YA Jhalak Prize has now been announced. The Children's and YA prize is the sister prize to the annual Jhalak Prize for adult fiction. First awarded in 2017, the Jhalak Prizes seek to 'celebrate books written by British/ British resident BAME writers... The prizes are unique in that they accept entries published in the UK by writers of colour... The Jhalak Children's and YA Prize accepts books for children, teens and young adults including picture books, chapter books, graphic novels, poetry, non-fiction, and all other genres by writers of colour and aimed at young readers.'



The winner of each Jhalak Prize will be awarded £1,000, along with a unique work of art created by artists chosen for the annual Jhalak Art Residency. Previous winners of the Children's and YA Prize include *When Our Worlds Collided* by Danielle Jawando and *Danny Chung Does Not do Maths* by Maisie Chan, both of which can be found in the library. We currently have one book from the 2024 longlist: *How to Die Famous* by Benjamin Dean, the details of which can be seen below.

[View the full children's and YA long list here.](#)

How to Die Famous by Benjamin Dean

From award-winning author Benjamin Dean comes a deliciously dark and addictive YA mystery following the lives of Gen Z's rich and famous through the lens of an undercover teen journalist. London-born Abel has landed the role of a lifetime for an upcoming blockbuster. On the face of it he's Hollywood's latest teen star, but below the surface he's an undercover journalist tasked with exposing the 'saucy clean' entertainment industry. As Abel steps into the spotlight, he soon discovers that beneath the glittering surface of fame and riches lies a darker world of secrecy and scandal. Nobody is who they seem when the cameras are off, and everybody is out for themselves. Can Abel keep his head above water long enough to uncover the truth, or will a budding romance cloud his judgement?



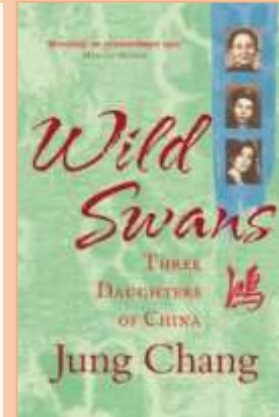
Student Book Review

Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China by Jung Chang

I picked this book up in a holiday cottage in Cornwall 2 years ago, and that entire weekend, I could not put it down. Neither the sea nor the sun could tempt me away from this masterpiece.

This is an autobiographical account of Jung Chang's family, following first her grandmother, then her mother and finally herself, as these women grow and age in a world turned upside down by the Chinese communist revolution. It is an extraordinary account, which spans over a century (1870 to 1978) and is full of insight into the lives of real people, their struggles and achievements, which can sometimes be concealed by such monumental historic events.

Review by Lucy Whitnall, 12P



On This Day in History... The Inaugural San Diego Comic Con, 21st March 1970

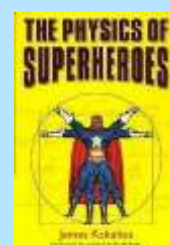


Originally titled the Golden State Comic Book Convention, the first ever comic-con (comic book convention) was held in San Diego in March 1970. The convention was hosted at the US Grant Hotel in downtown San Diego, and its sole purpose was to gauge the amount of interest a comic convention might generate. The event was successful, and the founders decided to hold a bigger, three-day event in August of the same year. The larger event was held in the basement of the same hotel and author Ray Bradbury was a notable featured guest. San Diego Comic Con has been held every year since (excepting 2020 due to COVID-19) and has snowballed in popularity. The San Diego convention has inspired similar comic conventions all around the world – far from limiting themselves to comic book related content, conventions have expanded to include video games, tv shows, films, and other types of media that have

garnered a following. Comic conventions put on shows, sell merchandise, and are attended by celebrity guests who give speeches, appear on panels and provide fans with photographs and autographs. The UK's biggest Comic Con is the MCM Comic Con which is held each year at the ExCel Centre in London and is usually attended by upwards of 100,000 people.

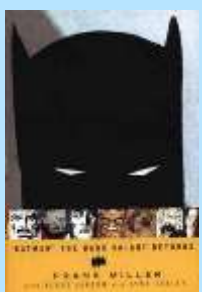
The Physics of Superheroes by James Kakalios

James Kakalios explores the scientific plausibility of the powers and feats of the most famous superheroes – and discovers that in many cases the comic writers got their science surprisingly right. Along the way he provides an engaging and witty commentary while introducing the lay reader to both classic and cutting-edge concepts in physics: What Superman's strength can tell us about the Newtonian physics of force, mass, and acceleration; how Iceman's and Storm's powers illustrate the principles of thermal dynamics; the physics behind the death of Spider-Man's girlfriend Gwen Stacy; why physics professors gone bad are the most dangerous evil geniuses!



Batman: The Dark Knight Returns by Frank Miller, Klaus Janson, and Lynn Varley

Crime runs rampant in the streets, and the man who was Batman is still tortured by the memories of his parents' murders. As civil society crumbles around him, Bruce Wayne's long-suppressed vigilante side finally breaks free of its self-imposed shackles. The Dark Knight returns in a blaze of fury, taking on a whole new generation of criminals and matching their level of violence. He is soon joined by this generation's Robin—a girl named Carrie Kelley, who proves to be just as invaluable as her predecessors. But can Batman and Robin deal with the threat posed by their deadliest enemies, after years of incarceration have made them into perfect psychopaths? And more important, can anyone survive the coming fallout of an undeclared war between the superpowers—or a clash of what were once the world's greatest superheroes?



Van Gogh Self Portrait Goes on Display in Wales

Van Gogh's 1187 *Portrait of the Artist* has been loaned from Paris' Musée d'Orsay to the National Museum in Cardiff. The artwork forms the centrepiece of an exhibition exploring whether such pieces are the original 'selfies.' Works by other artists such as Rembrandt and Francis Bacon are also displayed in the exhibition.

Throughout his career, Van Gogh painted more than 35 self-portraits, making his one of the best-known faces in Western art. Dr Kath Davies, the director of collections at the Welsh museum told the BBC: "It's really wonderful, Van Gogh is a superstar... Everybody knows he is one of the most recognised artists in the world and I think a lot of people have that connection to him." The Art of the Selfie exhibition is running at the National Museum between the 16th of March 2024 and the 26th of January 2025. It's a small exhibition with only 14 artworks on display, one of which is by Anya Paintsil, a young



Welsh artist with Ghanaian heritage. She lives and works in Wales and has 'brought her Ghanaian identity and Welsh identity together in the piece.' Dawn Bowden, the arts and culture minister said of Paintsil's work: "While she is using the traditional Ghanaian approach to this, actually she is depicting herself as Blodeuwedd, who is the floral lady from the Mabinogion... Anya has used some of her hair and weaved it into the portrait, which gives you a different perspective of what self-portrait might mean." Each of the 14 self portraits displayed explore the different ways in which artists choose to characterise themselves, in the same way that people present and share images of themselves today.' Original BBC article by Miriam Barker and Renu Thapa [here](#).

Vincent by Himself by Vincent Van Gogh and Bruce Bernard

This unique compilation of the art and writings of Vincent Van Gogh vividly conveys the intelligence and genius of one of Europe's greatest artists. The unquestionable appeal of Vincent's paintings and drawings is enhanced by his own account of his life and thought, as contained in his letters. This selection includes more than 230 of his paintings and drawings - all reproduced in full colour - as well as extracts of the artist's correspondence to friends and family members.



2024 Yoto Carnegie Medal Shortlist Announced



The Carnegie Medal, awarded annually since 1936, is the UK's oldest and most prestigious children's book award recognising outstanding writing for children and young people. Every year, we at Newstead shadow the prize with a group of year 7s who will read the short-listed books, take part in numerous activities related to the books, and ultimately vote for their winner. Miss Mullins will be visiting Y7 forms during registration this week to give more detail – look out for a Microsoft Form that will be sent to your email next week in order for you to register your interest in being a part of this year's shadowing group.

The 2024 Carnegie Medal for Writing Shortlist:

- The Door of No Return* by Kwame Alexander
- The Song Walker* by Zillah Bethell
- Away with Words* by Sophie Cameron
- The Boy Lost in the Maze* by Joseph Coelho, illustrated by Kate Milner
- Choose Love* by Nicola Davies, illustrated by Petr Horáček
- Crossing the Line* by Tia Fisher
- Safiyah's War* by Hiba Noor Khan
- Steady for This* by Nathanael Lessore

2023 Winner: The Blue Book of Nebo by Manon Steffan Ros

Dylan was six when *The End came*, back in 2018: when the electricity went off for good, and the normal 21st-century world he knew disappeared. Now 14, he and his mam have survived in their isolated hilltop house above the village of Nebo in north-west Wales by learning new skills and returning to old ways of living. However, despite their close understanding, the relationship between mother and son changes subtly as Dylan has to take on adult responsibilities. And they each have their own secrets – which emerge as they take it in turns to jot down their thoughts and memories in a found notebook – *The Blue Book of Nebo*.



2022 Winner: October, October by Katya Balen

October and her dad live in the woods. They sleep in the house Dad built for them and eat the food they grow in the vegetable patches. They know the trees and the rocks and the lake and stars like best friends. They read the books they buy in town again and again until the pages are soft and yellow – until next year's town visit. They live in the woods and they are wild. And that's the way it is. Until the year October turns eleven. That's the year October rescues a baby owl. It's the year Dad falls out of the biggest tree in their woods. The year the woman who calls herself October's mother comes back. The year everything changes.