



WINTER

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



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### Countdown to Christmas

#### Crime at Christmas by C.H.B. Kitchin

It's Christmas at Hampstead's Beresford Lodge. A group of relatives and intimate friends gather to celebrate the festive season, but their party is rudely interrupted by a violent death. It isn't long before a second body is discovered. Can the murderer be one of those in the great house? The stockbroker sleuth Malcolm Warren investigates, in this brilliantly witty mystery from 1934.



### Literary-Inspired Christmas Viewing

School librarian Helen Smith has put together a TV guide showcasing the literary-inspired shows and films that will be airing over the festive period. She kindly shared her guide, titled the Christmas Reading Times, with the School Library Association. Below we have compiled some highlights. You can download Helen's full TV guide [here](#).

#### Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December:

Time:	Channel:	Title:	Literary Inspiration:
12.55pm	E4	The Kid Who Would be King	Based on Arthurian Legend
1.35pm	Channel 4	Scrooged	Based on the book by Charles Dickens
2.15pm	ITV1	On Her Majesty's Secret Service	Based on the series by Ian Fleming
3.30pm	Channel 4	Stardust	Based on the book by Neil Gaiman
11.15pm	BBC4	Jane Eyre	Based on the book by Charlotte Brontë

#### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December:

Time:	Channel:	Title:	Literary Inspiration:
12.30pm	Channel 4	A Series of Unfortunate Events	Based on the series by Lemony Snicket
12.50pm	Channel 5	Stuart Little	Based on the book by E. B. White
2.30pm	Channel 4	The Snowman	Based on the book by Raymond Briggs
2.30pm	Channel 5	Hook	Based on Peter Pan by J.M. Barrie
4.40pm	ITV2	How the Grinch Stole Christmas	Based on the book by Dr. Seuss
7.45pm	BBC4	A Christmas Carol: The Reafj	A reading of the book by Charles Dickens
9pm	Channel 4	Die Hard	Based on Nothing Lasts Forever by Roderick Thorp

#### Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December:

Time:	Channel:	Title:	Literary Inspiration:
2.50pm	ITV1	The Grinch	Based on How the Grinch Stole Christmas by Dr. Seuss
4.35pm	ITV2	Peter Pan	Based on the book by J.M. Barrie
5.10pm	Channel 5	A Christmas Carol	Based on the book by Charles Dickens
9pm	Channel 4	Bullet Train	Based on the book by Kōtarō Isaka

#### Christmas Eve:

Time:	Channel:	Title:	Literary Inspiration:
9.50am	BBC2	Great Expectations	Based on the book by Charles Dickens
2pm	Channel 5	The Man in the Iron Mask	Based on the book by Alexandre Dumas
2.30pm	ITV1	It's a Wonderful Life	Based on The Greatest Gift by Philip Van Doren Stern
3.15pm	ITV4	Spartacus	Based on the book by Howard Fast
4.35pm	Channel 5	Catch Me if You Can	Based on the book by Frank Abagnale and Stan Redding

#### Christmas Day:

Time:	Channel:	Title:	Literary Inspiration:
4.10pm	ITV2	Charlie and the Chocolate Factory	Based on the book by Roald Dahl
4.45pm	Film4	The Devil Wears Prada	Based on the book by Laura Weisberger
7.10pm	E4	Peter Rabbit	Based on characters created by Beatrix Potter
7.40pm	BBC3	Shrek	Based on the book by William Steig
10.20pm	BBC2	The Lady in the Van	Based on the book by Alan Bennett

#### Boxing Day:

Time:	Channel:	Title:	Literary Inspiration:
11am	Film4	Mrs Doubtfire	Based on Madame Doubtfire by Anne Fine
11.20am	BBC1	How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World	Based on the series by Cressida Cowell
12.20pm	ITV2	The Chronicles of Narnia: Voyage of the Dawn Treader	Based on the book by C.S. Lewis
1.50pm	BBC1	Paddington	Based on the series by Michael Bond
2.30pm	ITV2	Matilda	Based on the book by Roald Dahl
5.25pm	More4	Little Women	Based on the book by Louisa May Alcott
9pm	ITV2	Wonder Woman	Based on characters from DC Comics

"I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year." – Charles Dickens

**NEW**

**The Boy You Always Wanted** by Michelle Quach  
Francine loves her grandfather, but their time together is running out. He has one final wish: to see a male heir carry on the family traditions. Francine knows his ideas are outdated, but she would do anything for him. Her solution? Ask Ollie Tran, a family friend (and former crush, not that it matters), to pretend to be ceremonially adopted and act like the grandson A Güng never had. Ollie generally avoids the odd, too blunt (and fine, sort of cute) Francine, whose intensity makes him uncomfortable. So when she asks him to help deceive her dying grandpa, Ollie's not down. He doesn't get why anyone would go to such lengths, even for family. Especially with a backwards (and sexist, Ollie keeps stressing) scheme like this. Francine, however, is determined to make it happen, and soon Ollie finds himself more invested in her plan—and in her—than he ever thought possible. But as the tangled lies and feelings pile up, Francine must discover what exactly she needs for herself—and from Ollie. Because sometimes the boy you always wanted isn't what you expected.

**Carrie Soto is Back** by Taylor Jenkins Reid  
Carrie Soto is the greatest player the world has ever seen. But six years after her last match, she watches a young British tennis player steal her world record - and Carrie knows she has to go back and reclaim her rightful place at the top. Even if the world doesn't believe in her. Even if it almost breaks her. This is a story about the cost of greatness and the burden of fame. The fight for a place in history is about to begin...

**Tokyo Ghoul: Volume 2** by Sui Ishida  
(Recommended for Older Readers)  
Unable to discard his humanity but equally unable to suppress his Ghoul hunger, Ken finds salvation in the kindness of friendly Ghouls who teach him how to pass as human and eat flesh humanely. But recent upheavals in Ghoul society attract the police like wolves to prey, and they don't discriminate between conscientious and monstrous Ghouls.

**Tokyo Ghoul: Volume 3** by Sui Ishida  
(Recommended for Older Readers)  
Kaneki is still trying to get used to his new life when Commission of Counter Ghoul agents Mado and Amon start sniffing around for Hinami. Kaneki and Touka are going to have to get them off her tail and fast. No easy task now that Kaneki's got to bring humans and Ghouls to a rapid truce at the same time.

**The Physics of Climate Change** by Lawrence M Krauss  
The news is full of hotly debated and divergent claims about the impacts and risks of climate change. Lawrence Krauss, one of the world's most respected physicists and science popularisers, cuts through the confusion by succinctly presenting the underlying science of climate change. The Physics of Climate Change provides a clear, accurate and accessible perspective on climate science and the risks of global inaction. Krauss's narrative explores the history of how scientists progressed to our current understanding of the Earth's climate and its future. Its generous complement of informative diagrams and illustrations allows readers to assess which climate predictions are securely based on analysis of empirical data, and which are more speculative.

**Our Final Warning: Six Degrees of Climate Emergency** by Mark Lynas  
We are living in a climate emergency. But how much worse could it get? Will civilisation collapse? Are we already past the point of no return? What kind of future can our children expect? Rigorously cataloguing the very latest climate science, Mark Lynas explores the course we have set for Earth over the next century and beyond. Degree by terrifying degree, he charts the likely consequences of global heating and the ensuing climate catastrophe. At one degree - the world we are already living in - vast wildfires scorch California and Australia, while monster hurricanes devastate coastal cities. At two degrees the Arctic ice cap melts away, and coral reefs disappear from the tropics. At three, the world begins to run out of food, threatening millions with starvation. At four, large areas of the globe are too hot for human habitation, erasing entire nations and turning billions into climate refugees. At five, the planet is warmer than for 55 million years, while at six degrees a mass extinction of unparalleled proportions sweeps the planet, even raising the threat of the end of all life on Earth. These escalating consequences can still be avoided, but time is running out. We must largely stop burning fossil fuels within a decade if we are to save the coral reefs and the Arctic. If we fail, then we risk crossing tipping points that could push global climate chaos out of humanity's control. This book must not be ignored. It really is our final warning.

**Aristotle and Dante #2: Aristotle and Dante Dive into the Waters of the World** by Benjamin Alire Sáenz  
A love story like no other. In Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe, two boys fell in love. Now they must discover what it means to stay in love and build a relationship in a world that seems to challenge their very existence. Ari has spent all of high school hiding who he really is, staying silent and invisible. He expected his senior year to be the same. But something in him cracked open when he fell in love with Dante, and he can't go back. Suddenly he finds himself reaching out to new friends, standing up to bullies and making his voice heard. And, always, there is Dante - dreamy, witty Dante - who can get on Ari's nerves and fill him with desire all at once. The boys are determined to forge a path for themselves in a world that doesn't understand them. But when Ari is faced with a shocking loss, he'll have to fight like never before to create a life that is truthful, joyfully his own.

**Loki: The God Who Fell to Earth** by Daniel Kibblesmith et al  
Loki is...Earth's Mightiest Hero?! After dying a grisly death in War of the Realms, the reborn Trickster learned a valuable lesson in warmongering: Don't get caught. But now Loki has a whole new set of responsibilities - and his brother Thor isn't about to let him walk away from them. Restless with his new duties, Loki seeks out the advice of the closest thing Midgard has to a king - Tony Stark, the Invincible Iron Man! Close enough, right? But it turns out that Shell-head isn't too happy to see Loki, on account of all that stuff he did in the past. Now the God of Mischief/Stories/Evil/Chaos has to outsmart the cleverest man on Earth - or die (again) trying. Meanwhile, could Thor be hatching a mischievous plot of his own?

### National Crossword Puzzle Day

In the USA, the 21<sup>st</sup> of December is designated National Crossword Puzzle Day. In honour of this, we have put together a literary Christmas crossword for you to complete. Click on the link below to play online.

**Across:**

- The classic fairy tale the film Frozen is based on (3, 4, 5)
- Reindeer that shares its name with a Roman god (5)
- Scrooge's first name (8)
- "Christmas won't be Christmas without any presents" is the opening line of which book? (6, 5)
- The author of Mistletoe and Murder (6, 7)
- A place where it's always winter but never Christmas (6)
- The author of Letters from Father Christmas (7)
- Complete the title of this Christmas ghost story: The Woman \_\_\_\_\_ (2, 5)

**Down:**

- The name of the Who that taught the Grinch to love (5, 3)
- The name of the star in Stardust (6)
- The name of the ballet based on a short story by Alexandre Dumas (3, 10)
- The name of the diarist who first recorded the phrase 'Christmas present' (6, 5)
- Given on day 5 in the Twelve Days of Christmas (4, 5)
- The colour of the 'carbuncle' in Doyle's festive Holmes story (4)
- Discworld's equivalent of Santa Claus (9)
- Finish the title of this festive Poirot mystery: The Adventure of the \_\_\_\_\_ (9, 7)
- The name of the Grinch's dog (3)

### On this Day in History... The Birth of Philip K. Dick, 16<sup>th</sup> December 1928

Philip K. Dick was an American fiction writer known for his science fiction novels and short stories that explored philosophical and social themes such as reality, perception, human nature, and identity. He struggled with commercial success until the publication of his novel *The Man in the High Castle* (1962) earned him widespread praise. Over his career, Dick published 44 novels with some influenced by his own experiences of the paranormal and mystical. This influence can be seen in his works such as *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*. He was also known for writing characters that struggle against authoritarian governments, as well as those battling drug abuse, and exploring the reality of living in a future run by technology. Philip K. Dick passed away in 1982 following a heart attack. He was 53.

**We Can Remember it for You Wholesale** by Philip K. Dick  
The twenty-five marvellously varied pieces were written between 1963 and 1981, just a few months before Dick died. These include the title story which was turned into the worldwide box office hit film *Total Recall*.

**Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep** by Philip K. Dick  
(Recommended for Older Readers)  
World War Terminus devastated the Earth. Through its ruins, bounty hunter Rick Deckard searches for the renegade replicants he is sent to 'retire', while he dreams of owning a live animal. The ultimate status symbol in a world all but bereft of natural life.