



SPRING

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



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“To know a man's library, is in some measure, to know a man's mind.” – Geraldine Brooks, March

NEW

Skellig #1 by David Almond

Unhappy about his baby sister's illness and the chaos of moving into a dilapidated old house, Michael retreats to the garage and finds a mysterious stranger who is something like a bird and something like an angel...



The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupery

A pilot stranded in the desert awakes one morning to see, standing before him, the most extraordinary little fellow. "Please," asks the stranger, "draw me a sheep." And the pilot realizes that when life's events are too difficult to understand, there is no choice but to succumb to their mysteries. He pulls out pencil and paper... And thus begins this wise and enchanting fable that, in teaching the secret of what is really important in life, has changed forever the world for its readers.

The Haven #1 by Simon Lelic

Alone. On the run. Ollie Turner has nowhere to hide. But he gets a second chance. Underneath the city there's a secret organisation, far from adult eyes. It's called The Haven. Soon Ollie is caught up in their battle: to stop Maddy Sikes destroying the city. Time is running out for Ollie and his new friends, and millions of lives are at stake.



The Sinclair's Mysteries: The Painted Dragon #3 by Katherine Woodfine

When a priceless painting is stolen, our dauntless heroines, Sophie and Lil, find themselves faced with forgery, trickery and deceit on all sides!

The Hounds of Penhallow Hall: The Last Treasure by Holly Webb

Polly and her new ghostly friends William, Rex and Magnus wake Li-Mei, the Chinese porcelain Fu Dog from the Red Drawing Room. The little Pekinese tells them her adventures with Sarah Penhallow - how they investigated rumours of smugglers and sighted a ghostly Green Lady down at the cove. But when Polly looks at the family portrait she realises that there were actually two dogs. Eventually, Li-Mei reveals that she had a companion, Han, but she thinks that he drowned down by the cove. Together, the friends set off to solve the mystery once and for all.



We Are the Beaker Girls by Jacqueline Wilson

Jess is looking for a fantastic new boyfriend for her mum (mostly because Tracy's awful ex Sean is back on the scene). But Jess has bigger problems of her own. She's being picked on by a local kid who's got it in for her. But when Jess uncovers the truth about her new enemy, it means big changes for the Beaker Girls...

Clover Moon by Jacqueline Wilson

Clover Moon lives in Cripps Alley, a grimy backstreet of Victorian London, with six younger siblings, her weary father and his sharp-tongued, uncaring second wife. Devoted to her sister Megs, sparky and imaginative Clover is quick to learn her letters and loves to get a chance to paint and draw. But, despite her talents, she is condemned to a life as a household skivvy. Then a chance meeting with an artist gives her an inspiring glimpse of another worlds -- and an idea of how she might find it...



The Illustrated Mum by Jacqueline Wilson

Dolphin adores her mum - she's beautiful and vibrant. She's covered in colourful tattoos and with her bright hair and amazing clothes, Marigold stands out, wherever she goes. But her sister, Star, feels differently. Marigold may look great, but living with her unpredictable, fiery moods can be hard. After Marigold has a breakdown, Dolphin starts to wonder...is she the right person to be looking after her?

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!

United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace

The United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace is observed each year on March 8, the same day as International Women's Day, to highlight the importance of gender equality and the role women play in achieving lasting peace around the world. The United Nations is built on the principle that men and women have equal human rights, and its Charter states that true development and global peace cannot be achieved if discrimination against women continues. The first Women's Day was observed in 1909 in New York City, organized by the Socialist Party of America to protest poor working conditions for women. The UN has used this day as a platform for public discussion and action on issues such



as gender equality, violence against women, and women's leadership in peacebuilding, including important efforts like the 1995 Beijing Declaration and the Women, Peace, and Security agenda. Overall, this day serves as both a celebration of women's achievements and a global call to continue working toward fairness, safety, and equal opportunities for all women. To find out more click [here](#).

Of Women by Shami Chakrabarti

Gender injustice is the greatest human rights abuse on the planet. It blights first and developing worlds, rich and poor women's health, wealth, education and opportunity. Here Shami Chakrabarti lays out the challenges we face with honesty and clarity, and makes radical, inspiring proposals for what we do next.

A Vindication of the Rights of Woman by Mary Wollstonecraft

In the present state of society, it appears necessary to go back to first principles in search of the most simple truths, and to dispute with some prevailing prejudice every inch of ground. To clear my way, I must be allowed to ask some plain questions, and the answers will probably appear as unequivocal as the axioms on which reasoning is built; though, when entangled with various motives of action, they are formally contradicted, either by the words or conduct of men. In what does man's pre-eminence over the brute creation consist? The answer is as clear as that a half is less than the whole; in reason.

On This Day... Andrea Levy was born 7th March 1956

Andrea Levy was born on March 7, 1956, in London, England, to Jamaican parents who had moved to Britain in the late 1940s, including her father who arrived on the Empire Windrush in 1948. She grew up in a working-class family in Highbury, north London, and faced challenges as a Black child in a mostly white society. Although she struggled with dyslexia, her parents encouraged her love of reading, and she found confidence through the arts, especially at the Highbury Youth Theatre, where she also developed an interest in music like reggae and ska. After leaving school, Levy worked different jobs, including in the film and television industry, before beginning to write in her twenties after taking a creative writing course. Inspired by her family's experiences as Jamaican immigrants, she focused on themes such as identity, belonging, race, and history. Her first novel, *Every Light in the House Burnin'* (1994), explored the life of a Jamaican family in London, followed by *Never Far From Nowhere*



(1996) and *Fruit of the Lemon* (1999), which told the story of a young woman reconnecting with her Jamaican roots. Levy gained international fame with her fourth novel, *Small Island* (2004), which described the experiences of Jamaican immigrants arriving in Britain after World War II and the racism they faced; the book won major awards and was adapted for television by the BBC. She later wrote *The Long Song* (2010), set during slavery in Jamaica, and other works including short stories and essays. Levy died in 2019 after battling cancer, but her work continues to have a powerful impact, helping readers better understand Britain's multicultural history and inspiring greater representation in literature. To find out more click [here](#).

Small Island by Andrea Levy

Returning to England after the war, Jamaican Gilbert Joseph is treated very differently now that he is no longer in an RAF uniform. Joined by his wife Hortense, he rekindles a friendship with Queenie who takes in Jamaican lodgers. Can their dreams of a better life in England overcome the prejudice they face?

The Long Song by Andrea Levy

Perhaps, my son suggests, I might write that it is a thrilling journey through that time in the company of people who lived it. All this he wishes me to pen so the reader can decide if this is a novel they might care to consider. Cha, I tell my son, what fuss-fuss. Come, let them just read it for themselves.

On This Day... Khaled Hosseini was born 4th March 1965

Khaled Hosseini, born on March 4, 1965, in Kabul, Afghanistan, is an Afghan-born American novelist best known for writing powerful stories about life in Afghanistan, especially his first novel, *The Kite Runner* (2003). He grew up in Kabul, where his father worked as a diplomat and his mother was a teacher, but in 1976 his family moved to Paris for his father's job. After the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in 1979, they could not return home and were granted political asylum in the United States, eventually settling in California. Hosseini studied biology at Santa Clara University and later earned a medical degree from the University of California, San Diego, becoming a practicing doctor in 1996. While working as a physician, he began writing *The Kite Runner* early in the mornings before work, and the novel became an international bestseller, telling the story of friendship, betrayal, and redemption against the backdrop of Afghanistan's political turmoil. Encouraged by its success, Hosseini became a full-time writer in 2004 and later served as a goodwill envoy for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, helping raise awareness about refugees. His second novel, *A Thousand Splendid Suns* (2007), focuses on the lives of two Afghan women, Mariam and Laila, and shows how decades of war, including the Soviet invasion, Taliban rule, and the U.S. invasion, affected ordinary people, especially women; it also became a bestseller. His third novel, *And the Mountains Echoed* (2013), explores the lifelong effects of separating a brother and sister in 1950s Afghanistan, and his illustrated short story *Sea Prayer* (2018) was inspired by the tragic death of a young Syrian refugee. Through his emotionally powerful storytelling, Hosseini has helped readers around the world better understand Afghanistan's history, culture, and the human impact of war.



The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini (Recommended for older readers)

The Kite Runner is a novel about friendship, betrayal, and the price of loyalty. It is about the bonds between fathers and sons, and the power of fathers over sons - their love, their sacrifices, and their lies.

A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini (Recommended for older readers)

A Thousand Splendid Suns is an unforgettable portrait of a wounded country and a deeply moving story of family and friendship. It is a beautiful, heart-wrenching story of an unforgiving time, an unlikely bond and an indestructible love.

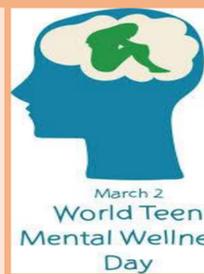
And the Mountains Echoed by Khaled Hosseini (Recommended for older readers)

Ten-year-old Abdullah would do anything for his younger sister. In a life of poverty and struggle, with no mother to care for them, Pari is the only person who brings Abdullah happiness. For her, he will trade his only pair of shoes to give her a feather for her treasured collection. When their father sets off with Pari across the desert to Kabul in search of work, Abdullah is determined not to be separated from her. Neither brother nor sister know what this fateful journey will bring them.



March 2nd is... World Teen Mental Wellness Day

World Teen Mental Wellness Day is observed every year on March 2nd to raise awareness about the mental health challenges that teenagers face and to encourage open conversations about emotional well-being. The day focuses on educating people and reducing the stigma around mental health, which is becoming an increasingly common issue among teens. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), mental health is a state of well-being in which a person understands their abilities, copes with normal life stresses, works productively, and contributes to their community. Mental health problems are especially common among teenagers, making up about 16% of diseases and injuries in people aged 10 to 19. Many mental health conditions begin around age 14 and often go undiagnosed and untreated. World



Mental Wellness Day highlights the importance of understanding what teens go through and encourages young people to seek help, while reminding everyone that mental wellness is a vital part of overall health and living a full, balanced life. If you ever need anyone to speak to, our safeguarding team are there to help as well as teachers that have your mental health at heart.

The Comfort Book by Matt Haig

The Comfort Book is a collection of little islands of hope. It gathers consolations and stories that give new ways of seeing ourselves and the world. Matt Haig's mix of philosophy, memoir and self-reflection builds on the wisdom of philosophers and survivors through the ages, from Marcus Aurelius to Nellie Bly, Emily Dickinson to James Baldwin.

Mind Your Head by Olivia Hewitt

We all have a mind, so we all need to take care of our mental health as much as we need to take care of our physical health. And the first step is being able to talk about our mental health. Juno Dawson leads the way with this frank, factual and funny book, with added information and support from clinical psychologist Dr Olivia Hewitt.

The Teenage Guide to Stress by Nicola Morgan

Explains what stress is and looks at the ways teenage stress is different. This book deals with a number of issues that affect teenagers - from anger depression and sexual relationships to cyber-bullying exams and eating disorders - and offers guidance and advice. It also shows how to deal with and prevent the symptoms of stress.



International Women's Day and International Women's Week

International Women's Week is celebrated each year starting on the first Saturday of March and leads up to International Women's Day (IWD) on March 8, a global day that honours the achievements of women and promotes gender equality. Although International Women's Day has been observed since the early 1900s, a full week of events was later added to allow more time for discussions, celebrations, and activities focused on women's rights and progress. The week highlights the important role women play in society and recognises how far they have come in fighting for equal pay, voting rights, education, leadership opportunities, and protection from discrimination and violence. Historically, women faced serious inequality, including being underpaid, overworked, denied the right to vote, and subjected to unfair treatment at home and in the workplace. In 1908, thousands of women marched in New York City demanding better wages, shorter working hours, and voting rights, and in 1910, activist Clara Zetkin proposed the idea of an International Women's Day. In 1917, Russian women protested for "Bread and Peace," helping lead to greater rights, and in 1977 the United Nations officially declared March 8 as International Women's Day. Over time, the celebration expanded into International Women's Week, focusing on key issues such as healthy relationships, self-confidence, leadership development, and ending violence against women. Today, governments, organizations, schools, and businesses around the world mark the week with conferences, campaigns, and events that promote equal hiring practices, scholarships for women in male-dominated fields, and other actions aimed at reducing gender bias. Overall, International Women's Week is both a celebration of women's social, political, and cultural achievements and a reminder that continued effort is needed to create a truly equal world. If you would like more information, click [here](#).



Atlas of Women of the World by Joni Sarger

World events continue to reveal the importance of understanding how women live across continents and cultures. Using maps, text, and other graphics in this revision of her eye-opening book, Joni Seager employs up-to-the-minute research and data to show what shifts have occurred in the ten years since the first edition was published - the strides made by women and the distance still to be travelled.

Heroides by Ovid

In the twenty-one poems of the *Heroides*, Ovid gave voice to the heroines and heroes of epic and myth. These deeply moving literary epistles reveal the happiness and torment of love, as the writers tell of their pain at separation, forgiveness of infidelity or anger at betrayal.

Image and Power: The women in Fiction in the 20th Century by Sarah Seatts and Gail Cunningham
The text introduces women writers whose novels have been widely read and provides an important contribution to the debate about women in literature.

