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



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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!



"Summer's lease hath all too short a date." – William Shakespeare, *The Sonnets*

NEW

The Land of Stories: The Enchantress Returns #2 by Chris Colfer

One night twins Alex and Conner Bailey learn that the famed Enchantress has kidnapped their mother! Against the will of their grandmother, the twins must find their own way into the Land of Stories to rescue their mother and save fairy-tale land from the greatest threat it's ever faced.



I Am Not Jessica Chen by Ann Liang

Jenna Chen has spent her life in the shadow of her flawless cousin. Jessica Chen is so smart she gets the top score on every test. Jessica Chen is so beautiful people stop in the hallway to stare at her. Jessica Chen is so perfect she got into Harvard. And Jenna Chen will only ever be a disappointment. So when Jenna makes a desperate wish to become her cousin, the last thing she expects is for it to come true - literally. All of a sudden she gets to live the life she's always dreamed of... but being the model student at cutthroat Havenwood Private Academy isn't quite what she'd imagined. Worse, people seem to be forgetting that someone named Jenna Chen ever existed. But isn't it worth trading it all away - her artistic talent, her childhood home, even the hope of golden boy Aaron Cai loving her back - to be Jessica Chen?



A Spoonful of Murder #6 by Robin Stevens

When Hazel Wong's beloved grandfather passes away, Daisy Wells is all too happy to accompany her friend (and Detective Society Vice President) to Hazel's family estate in beautiful, bustling Hong Kong. But when they arrive they discover something they didn't expect: there's a new member of the Wong family. Daisy and Hazel think baby Teddy is enough to deal with, but as always the girls are never far from a mystery. Tragedy strikes very close to home, and this time Hazel isn't just the detective. She's been framed for murder! The girls must work together like never before, confronting dangerous gangs, mysterious suspects and sinister private detectives to solve the murder and clear Hazel's name - before it's too late.



The Paper Magician by Charlie N. Holmberg

Ceony Twill arrives at the cottage of Magician Emery Thane with a broken heart. Having graduated at the top of her class from the Tagis Praff School for the Magically Inclined, Ceony is assigned an apprenticeship in paper magic despite her dreams of bespelling metal. And once she's bonded to paper, that will be her only magic... forever. Yet the spells Ceony learns under the strange yet kind Thane turn out to be more marvelous than she could have ever imagined - animating paper creatures, bringing stories to life via ghostly images, even reading fortunes. But as she discovers these wonders, Ceony also learns of the extraordinary dangers of forbidden magic. An Excisioner - a practitioner of dark, flesh magic - invades the cottage and rips Thane's heart from his chest. To save her teacher's life, Ceony must face the evil magician and embark on an unbelievable adventure that will take her into the chambers of Thane's still-beating heart - and reveal the very soul of the man.



Seven Ghosts by Chris Priestley (dyslexia friendly font)

Jake and the other finalists in a writing competition have been invited to a stately house for a tour like no other. As their guide leads them through grand rooms, hidden nooks and magnificent grounds, they hear the stories of seven ghosts who haunt the halls. But strange shapes and shadows follow Jake as he journeys through the house and with each tale that Jake hears, he begins to feel more uneasy. All is not as it seems and soon Jake will discover that something is very, very wrong....



22nd June: Pride Event at Orpington Library

As part of PRIDE Month celebrations, Orpington Library will be hosting a special event that highlights the work of two inspiring children's authors, Mama G and Shireen Lalji, who are both members of the GLL Literary Foundation. The session will give young children and their families the opportunity to enjoy picture books that celebrate diversity, inclusion, kindness, and self-expression, while also taking part in fun and engaging activities linked to the stories. Mama G is a well-known storyteller, author, and entertainer who is passionate about sharing stories that encourage children to be themselves and celebrate what makes them unique. Through her books and performances, she promotes messages of acceptance, confidence, and respect for others, helping children understand the importance of embracing differences. Shireen Lalji is an author whose work focuses on creating inclusive stories that reflect a wide range of cultures, experiences, and identities. Her books help children see themselves represented in literature while also learning about the lives and experiences of others, encouraging empathy, understanding, and curiosity about the world around them. The event forms part of the GLL Literary Foundation's ongoing mission to support emerging children's authors, inspire a love of reading, and champion the vital role of public libraries within local communities.

Launched just over a year ago, the Foundation has already made a significant impact by supporting 20 talented authors and enabling them to deliver more than 60 events across Bromley, Greenwich, Wandsworth, Dudley, and Lincolnshire. These events have engaged over 3,000 children and more than 500 adults, helping to connect readers directly with authors and making books more accessible and exciting for young audiences. By featuring authors such as Mama G and Shireen Lalji, the Foundation helps ensure that children have access to inclusive literature that reflects different backgrounds, families, and experiences. This PRIDE Month event is therefore not only a celebration of reading but also an opportunity to promote acceptance, representation, and understanding. Through storytelling, creativity, and discussion, children can learn valuable lessons about respecting others, appreciating diversity, and feeling confident in their own identities, making the event both educational and enjoyable for everyone involved.

From Prejudice to Pride: A History of the LGBTQ+ Movement by Amy Lame

Follow LGBTQ+ history from ancient civilisations to the present-day and learn about key events including the trial of Oscar Wilde, the Stonewall riots, the AIDS crisis, same-sex marriage and changing laws that have impacted on LGBTQ+ life. Gain insight into the shifting attitudes that have challenged lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and the experiences that help us understand what it means to be LGBTQ+ today.



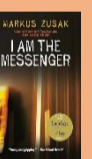
On This Day... Markus Zusak was born 23rd June

Markus Zusak is an Australian author who was born in Sydney in 1975 to German and Austrian immigrant parents. As the youngest of four children, he grew up in a family that valued education and language, even though his parents could not speak, read, or write English when they first arrived in Australia. They encouraged their children to become strong readers and communicators, which helped inspire Zusak's love of storytelling. He began writing fiction at the age of 16 and later studied teaching at university. Before becoming a full-time writer, he worked in several jobs, including house painter, janitor, and high school English teacher. His first novel, *The Underdog* (1999), was published after facing many rejections and introduced Cameron Wolfe, a character partly based on Zusak himself. This book was followed by *Fighting Ruben Wolfe* and *When Dogs Cry* (published as *Getting the Girl* in the United States), completing the Wolfe brother's trilogy, which explores themes such as family, identity, hardship, love, loss, and growing up. These novels earned significant recognition and literary awards. Zusak continued his success with *The Messenger* (2002), a novel about a struggling teenage taxi driver named Ed who receives mysterious messages that lead him to help others and discover a greater purpose in life. The book was praised internationally and won several prestigious awards. However, Zusak became most famous for *The Book Thief* (2006), a novel set in Nazi Germany during World War II and narrated by Death. The story follows a young orphan, Liesel Meminger, as she finds comfort, friendship, and hope through books and words during a time of war and suffering. Inspired by stories his parents shared about their experiences in Austria and Germany during the war, Zusak created a powerful novel that explores the importance of language, courage, and humanity. *The Book Thief* received widespread critical acclaim, won numerous awards, and became an international bestseller. To find out more, click [here](#).



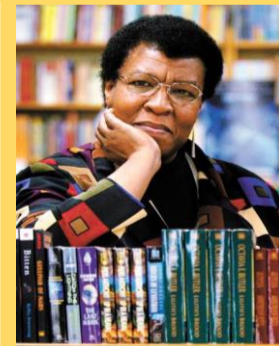
I Am the Messenger by Markus Zusak

Ed Kennedy is just your less-than-average Joe who is hopelessly in love with his best friend, Audrey. But after he single-handedly manages to catch a bank robber, he receives a playing card in the mail: the Ace of Diamonds. This is the first message. Four more will follow. But before this particular card game can end, Ed will be changed forever...



On This Day... Octavia Butler was born 22nd June 1947

Octavia E. Butler was a groundbreaking African American science fiction writer whose novels explored themes of race, power, identity, survival, and human relationships through imaginative future worlds and characters with extraordinary abilities. Born in Pasadena, California, in 1947, Butler studied at Pasadena City College, California State University, and University of California, Los Angeles before beginning her writing career in 1970 with encouragement from science fiction writer Harlan Ellison. Her first novel, *Patternmaster*, launched the *Patternist* series, a collection of five novels about a society of telepaths controlled by mental powers and controlled by an immortal ruler named Doro. Other books in the series include *Mind of My Mind*, *Survivor*, *Wild Seed*, and *Clay's Ark*. One of her most famous works, *Kindred*, tells the story of a modern Black woman who is repeatedly transported back in time to a slave plantation before the American Civil War, forcing her to confront the realities of slavery and her own family history. Butler also wrote the acclaimed Xenogenesis trilogy—*Dawn*,



Rites, and *Imago*—as well as *Parable of the Sower* and *Parable of the Talents*, which explore social inequality, environmental collapse, and the struggle to build a better future. Her short stories were also highly respected, with *Speech Sounds* winning a Hugo Award and *Bloodchild* winning both Hugo and Nebula Awards. In 1995, Butler became the first science fiction writer to receive a fellowship from the MacArthur Foundation, recognizing her exceptional creativity and influence, and in 2000 she received a lifetime achievement award from PEN America. Through her unique blend of science fiction, mythology, spirituality, and social commentary, Butler transformed the genre and remains one of the most influential and celebrated writers in modern American literature. To find out more on Octavia Butler, click [here](#).

Kindred by Octavia Butler

(recommended for older readers)

Dana, a modern Black woman, is abruptly transported from her home in California to the antebellum South. Rufus, the white son of a plantation owner, is drowning, and Dana has been summoned across the years to save him. Dana is drawn back time and again, to protect Rufus so that he will grow to manhood and father the daughter who will become Dana's ancestor. Each sojourn becomes longer and more dangerous, and it may be that Dana's life will end, long before it has even begun.

Parable of the Sower #1 by Octavia Butler

We are coming apart. We're a rope, breaking, a single strand at a time. America is a place of chaos, where violence rules and only the rich and powerful are safe. Lauren Olamina, a young woman with the extraordinary power to feel the pain of others as her own, records everything she sees of this broken world in her journal. Then, one terrible night, everything alters beyond recognition, and Lauren must make her voice heard for the sake of those she loves. Soon, her vision becomes reality and her dreams of a better way to live gain the power to change humanity forever.



23rd June is... International Women in Engineering Day!

International Women in Engineering Day is celebrated every year on June 23 to recognize and honour the achievements of women in engineering while encouraging more girls and women to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The day also marks the anniversary of the Women's Engineering Society (WES), which was founded on June 23, 1919, and has been recognized internationally by UNESCO. Although women have contributed to designing, building, and inventing important technologies for centuries, they often faced barriers to education and professional opportunities in engineering. In the nineteenth century, pioneers such as Elizabeth Bragg broke these barriers by becoming the first woman to earn a degree in civil engineering in 1876, while Ada Lovelace helped create the world's first computer program. Later, Rita de Moraes Sarmento became the first

woman in Europe to graduate with an engineering degree. During World War II, the demand for technical workers increased opportunities for women to enter engineering and other technical fields. Despite this progress, engineering remains a male-dominated profession in many countries, and women continue to face challenges such as underrepresentation, discrimination, and gender pay gaps. International Women in Engineering Day aims to raise awareness of these issues while celebrating the contributions of female engineers who are shaping the future through innovation and problem-solving. The day encourages people to support aspiring female engineers, learn about the many inventions created by women, and promote equality in education and the workplace. By highlighting the achievements of women in engineering, the event inspires the next generation to pursue their interests and talents regardless of gender, helping create a more diverse and inclusive engineering profession. To find out more, click [here](#).

Amazing Engineering Jobs by Colin Hynson

If you thought a qualification in engineering would mean a lifetime on a construction site, then think again. A career in engineering can involve designing towering skyscrapers, building ultra-fast racing cars and working on the latest intelligent robots.



The Engineering Book by Marshall Brain

Engineering is where human knowledge meets real-world problems and solves them. It's the source of some of our greatest inventions, from the catapult to the jet engine, from the cell phone to the Large Hadron Collider. Marshall Brain, creator of the *How Stuff Works* series, provides a detailed look at 250 milestones in aerospace, architecture, chemistry, computer engineering, and more, from ancient history to the present.



June 24th is... National Armed Forces Day!

Armed Forces Day (United Kingdom) is an annual event in the United Kingdom held on June 24 to honour the service, dedication, and sacrifices of the country's armed forces, including soldiers, sailors, and air personnel. Although it is an official national event, it is not a public holiday, so schools, offices, and businesses stay open while celebrations take place in cities across the country. The day features parades, marches, and public performances at major landmarks, often rotating between different host cities each year, and it is also used to raise funds for injured service members and support military charities. The modern celebration began in 2006 as Veterans' Day (United Kingdom), which focused mainly on honouring living veterans and their families. In 2009, it was renamed Armed Forces Day to include and recognise all serving members of the military as well as veterans, reflecting a broader appreciation of the whole armed forces community. The idea of suourtime and remembering military service is also connected to earlier history, such as the creation of the Imperial War Museum in 1917, which helped preserve the memory of Britain's wartime efforts. Today, celebrations often include military displays and performances showcasing land, sea, and air forces, as well as speeches and community events, with each year's main national celebration hosted by a different city. For example, major celebrations in 2010 took place in Cardiff and were attended by senior royal figures, highlighting the importance of the occasion. The armed forces also emphasize their ongoing role in protecting the UK, supporting peacekeeping missions, and helping during emergencies such as natural disasters. However, the day is sometimes debated, with some groups arguing that it can promote militarism in everyday life. Overall, Armed Forces Day is intended to recognise the commitment of military personnel and to encourage public appreciation of their role in maintaining national security and supporting civilians. To find out more, click [here](#).



Boy 87 by Ele Fountain

Shif is just an ordinary schoolboy who loves chess and playing with his best friend. But, one day, he is forced to leave home to avoid conscription into the army. He embarks on an epic journey, in which he encounters dangers and cruelties - and great acts of human kindness - as he bravely makes his way to a future he can only imagine.



The First World War by Brian Williams

This Pitkin guide presents the history of the reality and the horrors of the Great War, which left a deep impact on a generation and subsequent generations, marked by the war graves and memorials in Flanders that still move visitors. Contemporary photographs, propaganda and maps bring this sobering period of world history to life.

