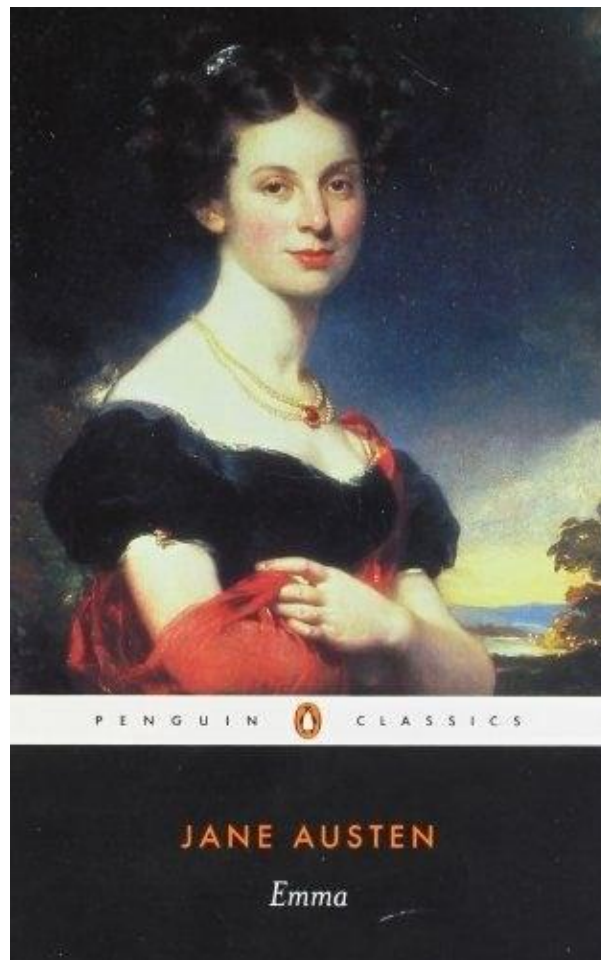




Welcome to the Berners Review; your bi-weekly round up of library and learning news.

This week, we're feeling festive as we run through a merry plethora of books, podcasts, and more (including a special guest review by Year 9, **Ottie Dyer**) to inspire Christmas spirit and relaxation as we head into Exeat.





"I was recommended this book by a friend, and it did not disappoint. As it was published in 1815 there were some points in which it was quite a hard read however once you got into the book, I found that I had finished it in a matter of days. For the majority of the novel, Austen is setting out the story and grounding us in the world that she has created, she uses this opportunity to establish the characters social standing and their relationships with each other. We are quickly introduced to Emma Woodhouse, the main character, and it soon becomes clear that despite her idyllic and privileged life she is not content to exist and has a habit of meddling in things that do not concern her. This manifests in her hobby of 'match making' she likes to pair up her friends and acquaintances who she thinks would be a suitable match and then encourage them towards each other, this helps fulfil her sense of importance. Emma's strengths are unfortunately also her weaknesses, her determination which although a good habit means that even if a match has not worked, she feels she must try and try again until it succeeds. She often is so caught up with this she does not notice the things which seem blatantly obvious to the reader. However, by the end Austen cleverly left me with a favourable opinion of Emma and despite her flaws I feel she is an incredibly likeable character. **I would give this novel four stars.**"

Christmas Illustrated



Explore the highlights from the 2019 [**Winter & Christmas in Books & Pictures**](#) exhibition hosted by
Staatsbibliothek Bamberg.



1 - Dürer (1511) Adoration of the Magi



2 - Birth of Christ and Transfiguration, Gospel (C. 1150)



3 - Scheiner (1920s) The Nutcracker



4 - Ludwig (2019) Silhouette

"Roast goose and winter beer, St Nicholas and angels, the nut cracker and gingerbread, the manger and the Christmas tree - the books and pictures preserved in the Staatsbibliothek Bamberg contain many ingredients of the festive season. Join us on a time travel from the Middle Ages to the present day!"



Watch: A Christmas Carol Themes in Song

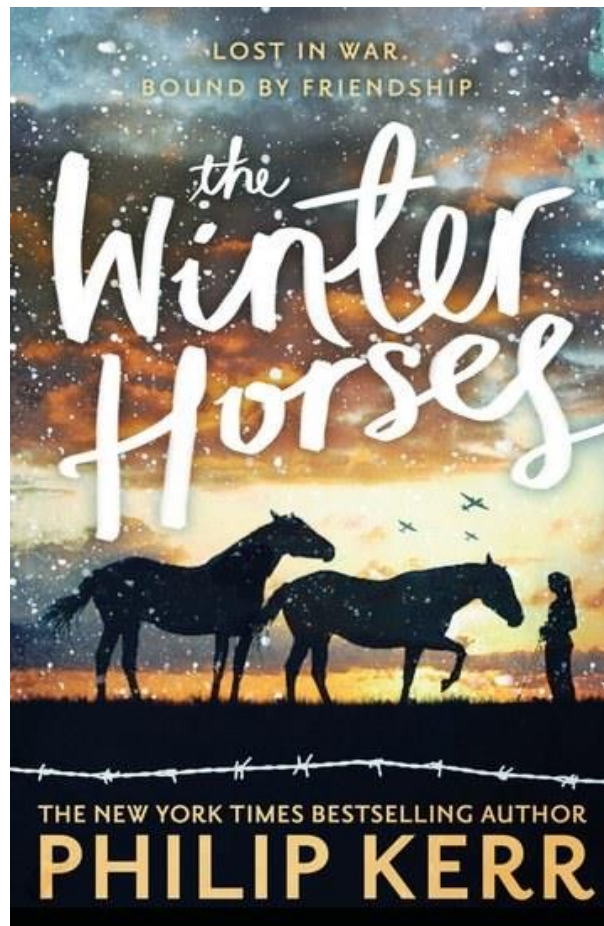
Watch this clip to revise the key themes in Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* through song!



Read: *The Winter Horses* by Philip Kerr

The Winter Horses by best selling author, Philip Kerr: The astonishing story of a young girl's fight for survival.

Find it on display in the Berners Library!





Winter 1941, Ukraine

After her family and home are destroyed by the Nazis, Kalinka befriends two rare horses who, like her, face extermination.

With their enemy in pursuit, the hunted survivors embark on a dangerous journey across the vast and freezing Ukrainian steppe. Can Kalinka bring them all to safety?

Play: Hidden Book Hunt

Join book lovers across the nation to spot all 20 books hiding in [this wintry illustration](#) by the National Book Tokens team. It's a little tricky (I had to consult the internet for clues!) but lots of fun and you find out if you're guesses are correct on their [website](#). Let me know how you get on!



Listen: Modern Love Holiday Playlist

[Modern Love](#) is a captivating podcast inspired by the New York Times column of the same name. Each episode follows the twists and turns of modern relationships across the globe and always leaves you wanting to know what happens next.

🔊 Listen to [this special edition](#) for some feel-good festive tales.



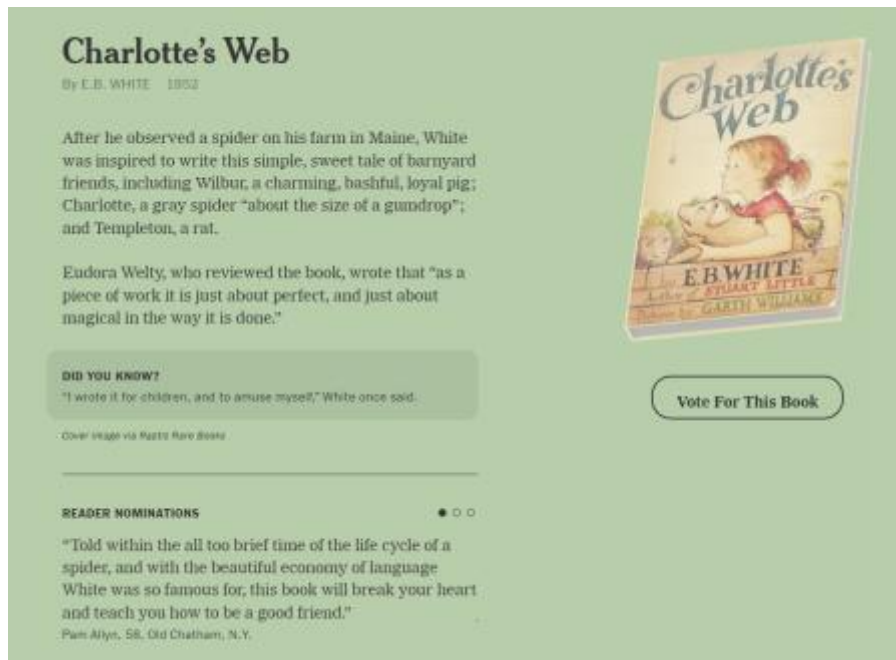
"For 16 years, the Modern Love column has given New York Times readers a glimpse into the complicated love lives of real people. Since its start, the column has evolved into a TV show, three books and a podcast. Now, we are excited to announce a relaunch of the podcast at The Times, hosted by Daniel Jones, the editor and creator of Modern Love, and Miya Lee, editor of Tiny Love Stories and Modern Love projects. Each week, we'll bring you their favorite stories from the column's vast archive, conversations with the authors, and a few surprises. New episodes every Wednesday."

The Times, 2021

Vote: The Best Book

The New York Times have released the short list for the best book from the last 125 years! [Now it's your time to vote.](#)

I'm giving my three votes to Charlotte's Web by E.B White, To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee, and 1984 by George Orwell.



"In October, editors at the Book Review asked you to help us choose the best book of the past 125 years. We received thousands of nominations — including novels, memoirs and poetry collections — from readers across the world.

We narrowed those submissions down to 25 finalists. It's a list that reflects the submissions we received, with a few exceptions: Editors decided only one book by a given author could appear on the list, and didn't count nominations for entire series, only individual books.

Now it's time to choose a winner! That's where you come in..."

Your voice. Your learning. Your library.

The Berners Library has great potential to become a welcoming space for learning and relaxation alike. This step forward starts with you. Fill out [this form](#) to let us know what you want to see and do here.