**The History of…  a library book / a football / a coffee mug**

The clichéd story title ‘The History of a Penny’ in fact has quite a lot going for it. Not just pennies, of course. Schoolbooks which used to (and often still do) have a record of previous owners are rich in possibilities.

First read, or at least possessed,  
By Angela O’Brien, now married  
With two kids and reading recipes  
In bed. Then someone called  
C. Gardiner who came and went  
And left a row of Os in Y11’s register  
And no one knows if she or  
Sheila Parkinson read to the end  
Or merely lent it to a friend.  
And then….

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